An Indepth Study of the Working Pattern Problems and Drudgery Women-Folk in Uttar Pradesh Hills

Sponsored by

Uttarakhand Development Department
Government of Uttar Pradesh
Lucknow.

P. N, PANDE

GIRI INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
Sector O, Aliganj Housing Scheme
LUCKNOW-226 020
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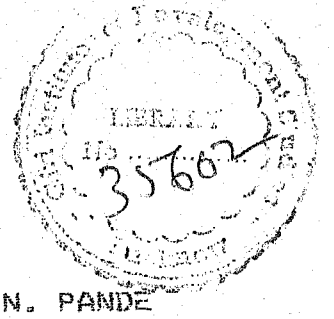

P.N. PANDE

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PREFACE

The Study titled **An Indepth Study of the Working Pattern Problems and Drudgery of Women-Folk in Uttar Pradesh Hills** was conducted by the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, on behalf of the Uttarakhand Development Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Womenfolk of Uttarakhand region are highly hard working and have been bearing the brunt of work load both within as well as outside the household since a considerable time period. This has been so partly on account of traditional reasons and also as a result of the fact that there is a high rate of migration from these areas of able-bodied men to the plains in search of gainful employment. Consequently, women lead a life which is very demanding and full of drudgery. Despite the fact that they contribute so much towards the family, they have been marginalised in all walks of life. Our study, therefore, attempts to analyse their working pattern so as to identify the problems faced by them and pinpoint the factors which cause monotony in their lives. It also tries to examine issues related to their awareness, outlook and perception about their conditions and problems. The report is the

outcome of a survey based study conducted in Chamoli and Pithoragarh districts representing Garhwal and Kumaon divisions respectively. Four villages were identified from each district and then a detailed survey of 340 women was conducted and this information provided the database for our study. The details of the study and its findings are being presented in this report.

The study was undertaken on the initiative and financial support from Uttarakhand Development Department of U.P. Government. We, therefore, express our thanks and gratitude to the Department for asking us to conduct this study by making requisite funds available for it. We would equally like to express our thanks to Prof. B.K. Joshi, Director, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow for helping and providing the necessary guidance and extending the infrastructural facilities required for conducting the study. We are extremely thankful to the officers and other members of the staff in the Development Block Offices of Joshimath, Karnprayag, Pithoragarh and Champawat for their necessary help and cooperation. In fact, the timely completion of the project report could not have been accomplished in the absence of help and support from Secretarial and Library staff of Giri Institute of Development Studies to whom we express our sincerest thanks. We would also like to thank the members of the project team comprising of Field

Assistants, Ms Manju Negi, Ms Bhagwati Singh, Ms Tara Devi and Ms Revti Lohani Research Assistants, Mr MMK Gupta and Mr Vivek Tewari who toiled day and night in the field and at the Institute for completing the assignment well within time. We are grateful to Shri Manoharan K. for his excellent and speedy word processing of the report. Finally, we would like to give our thanks to the respondents who had been interviewed during the course of field survey for their cooperation and tolerance.

Giri Institute of Development Studies
Lucknow

P.N. PANDE

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Introduction

Women play a vital role in the socio-economic and political set up of any nation. Women power at present constitutes nearly half of the global population and accounts for one-third of the total labourforce. The contribution of women towards the progress of mankind has been immense and they have, in one way or another contributed towards the progress of nations and guided the destinies of millions of families residing on this planet. As the level of social relationship they have for years contributed in maintaining social harmony and their contribution in natal or akinal relationship is unique. This universal and broad role of womenfolk is both interior and exterior in nature and has of late been receiving attention, appreciation and recognition from every quarter of the society. "Women's question today is .... no longer an issue confined to the position of women within the family or their rights to equality with men in

different aspects of social life. It is part of the total far broader question regarding the direction of change of that process."[1] Women's issues are inter woven with the larger issues of peace and security, poverty and affluence, development and underdevelopment and equality and inequality.

In socially and economically developed societies, women power is being absorbed, integrated and assimiliated into the national mainstream and have been able to discover its lost glory and personality. This has, however, not been the case in a majority of the countries especially of Latin American, African and Asian descent. They are not only backward economies but have also been characterised by gender inequality and marginalisation of women in every walk of life despite some recent attempts introduced at governmental and societal level towards the rectification of this problem. Much of the labour contributed by women specially in the domestic chores and also outside are not usually considered as productive. In spite of the pivotal role in farming, gender specific issues in technology development and dissimination are yet to receive the attention they need in most developing countries. World economic profile of women shows that they represent 50 per cent of the population, make up 30 per cent of the official labourforce, perform during 60 per cent of all working hours, receive 10 per cent of world income, and own even less than one per cent of world's prosperity.[2]

Women have been working always and everywhere in each society of the world since the beginning of human civilization. Women's work and skill are as old as humankind. Women today are paid less and have lower status at work than men. In spite of legislation and pressure from women's movement, equality at work and status is still only a remote possibility for most women in the third world countries. This dualistic human development approach needs to be addressed in a proper perspective to bring the entire question of gender inequality, the issue of role equity and role change along with proper synchronisation of governmental efforts in the context of the development challenges facing the economy of these countries. The need for such gender based equity becomes more urgent in today's global socio-economic order where territorial boundaries between nations and territories are freely intermingling and mixing. The concept of universal democratic order where social, economic and political democracy is to be become the order of the day demands a better deal at the international, national, regional and local levels. It would be appropriate to address this agenda in the light of efforts being made at various levels and why ever such efforts have not brought about the desired results.

Proliferation and sensitization of women's studies gained momentum after the Women Liberation Movement in 1970s in the West. However, the issue of women's development

caught world wide attention first in the year 1975 when the first International Conference of Women was held in Mexico in 1975 and the decade 1975-85 was declared as UN decade for women. Development of the International Women's Decade (1975-85) by the UN had initiated deliberations at various forums on women's issue and policies have been formulated to integrate women into mainstream of development with a shift from the 'welfare', 'beneficiary' and 'token' approach to 'participatory' development approach. Experience acquired during this period indicated how the developmental process can be accelerated or decelerated by the integration and non-integration of the production, reproductive and household functions into the developmental processes. Increased emphasis was laid to awareness of basic rights and needs of women, the role of women in development and stimulating activities and policy prescription along these lines in national and international levels. An Expert Group Meeting on the Role of Women in Public Life held in Vienna in May 1991 agreed that women had the right and responsibility to participate actively in public life and that rather then being seen as a minority issue, equality in public life should be seen as an issue of democratic parity. The Expert Group also agreed that the perception of politics as 'male territory' had to be changed, as did the structures of politics and public life in order to make them more hospitable to women.[3] Since then, many sessions of Commission on the Status of Women were held to bring out the ways and means of women development. The Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women states that discrimination[4] "violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries, hampers the growth of the prosperity of society and the family and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity." The role of women in economic activities was also brought to limelight by the World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development held in Rome in 1979. This Conference pledged for equal participation for women along with men in social, economic and political process of rural development and equal access to the benefits.

The importance of women's participation was recognised by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session, held at Vienna in March 1992. The Commission adopted by concensus a resolution expressing its conviction that true democracy could not be achieved without the full participation of women and their contribution to, including that to decision making in all spheres of life, and urging Governments to increase their efforts to appoint women to all executive decision-making bodies in political, economic and cultural life, so as to achieve incremental full gender equality. It also urged political parties, trade unions and non-governmental organisations to encourage women to use

their rights, to promote women, to put forward women as candidates to all effective posts and to support actively their election to such posts. In another resolution, on preparation for the Fourth World Conference on women : Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995), the Commission recommended that the regional preparatory conference should include on their agenda the issue of women in public life, emphasizing their role in politics and decision-making.

The Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the Nairobi (1985) Forward - looking strategies for Advancement of Women to the year 2000 reflect the significance that the United Nations attached to the importance of equality as part of the process of the advancement of women. The Fourth World Conference on Women : Action for Equality, Development and Peace will be held at Beijing, China from 4 to 15 September 1995. The task of the 1995 Congress is to review and appraise a UN document strategies for Advancement of Women in the year 2000, drafted by the Third World Women's Congress held in 1985 in Nairobi. The Commission on the Status of Women is the preparatory body for the Conference and, as such, discussed organisational and substantive issues pertaining to the Conference and its preparations at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions.

Beside these major World Conferences on women, scores of seminars, conferences and commissions have been set up from time to time to highlight the problem related with women's

development and the themes are wide ranging from women specific policies to human development prescription. The issues and concern raised through these platforms have wide ranging implications and countries have made varying degree of progress in this regard. The progress and performance of developing countries in this regard has been more dismal, especially those from African, Latin American and South Asian regions. Four indicators, namely, education, employment, nutrition and health are considered as major inputs for women development. Considerable disparities and discrimination in access to these vital inputs regarding women empowerment continue to persist at both micro and macro levels in the developing countries.

Women do not form a homogeneous group and in a country of India's size characterised by wide diversity and complexity the task of uniform policy making does not fully match the regional requirement of womenfolk. The Constitution of our country rests on the four fundamental pillars of :

Justice	:	social, economic and political;
Liberty	:	of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
Equality	:	of status and opportunity; and,
Fraternity	:	assuring the dignity of the individual and unity of the nation.

To attain these national objectives certain positive rights, viz. freedom of speech, protection of life and personal

liberty and negative rights such as prohibition of discrimination, or denial of equal protection are embodied in the directive principles of the Constitution. Further special attention has been given to the needs and problems of women as state can make any law under article 15(3) relating to women and children in order to alleviate and improve their status. Besides these Constitutional safeguards which applies equally to all citizens and the specific legislations which state can make for the weaker sections including women and children, the entire women specific development exercise is sought to be achieved through appropriate state legislation made from time to time. This socio-economic and political transformation incorporating a whole gamut of gender issues is being pursued in through various Five Year Plans and related women specific legislation. In the decade of Eighties and Nineties the pace of such women specific policies have gathered additional momentum as a result of global awareness in this front. The Mexico declaration and the report of National Committee on Status of Women can be considered as the benchmark for such women specific legislation. This has been supplemented and complemented by the administrative set up under various ministries at Central and State levels and the work carried by various Ministries, Agencies, working groups, conferences, committees and seminars.

The National Committee on the Status of Women in India (1974) examined the whole issue relating to the rights and

status of women in the context of social and economic condition prevailing in the country.[5] Some of its terms and references were :

1. to examine the Constitutional, legal and administrative provisions that have a bearing on social status of women, their education and employment;

2. to assess the impact of these provisions during the two decades on the status of women in the country, particularly in the rural sector and to suggest more effective programmes;

3. to examine the status of women as housewives and mothers in the changing social pattern and their problems in the sphere of further education and employment;

4. to consider the development of education among women and to determine the factors responsible for slow progress in this regard;

5. to suggest any other measures which would enable women to play their full and proper role in building the nation.

The publication of final report of this Committee formed the basis of administrative set up under various Ministries and Departments under the Government of India. The various establishments and the work carried so far is described below.

A Women Cell was established in the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 1975. A national plan of action for women based on the recommendation and guidelines of UN's World Plan of Action was soon formulated. The Women's Welfare and Development Bureau was established in the Ministry of Social Welfare to serve the National Committee on Women and to act as the nodal agency within the government to coordinate policies and programmes and initiate strategies for women's development. The Advisory Committee on the Status on Women (1977) demanded policy changes to assess the process by which women were becoming dispensable.

The Working Group on Employment of Women set up under the Planning Commission pointed out the inability of women to seek services and assistance programmes offered by Government and semi-government institutions, lack of awareness among institutions about the need to promote employment of women, tendency of economically powerful organisation to sabotage resources earmarked for women and failure of technological modernisation of several industries in expanding employment opportunities for women. The Group suggested earmarking of funds in sectoral plans, increasing their participation in decision making process and collecting micro-level data on employment conditions, unemployment situation and skill profile of local women. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development set up a working group of Village Level Organisation of Rural Women. It identified the needs of

rural women, objectives of Mahila Mandal and their involvement in rural development, promotion, strengthening and training of youth organisations for participation in rural development programmes and the role of the block, district and state level functionnaries for programmes and their training. The recommendation of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on the role and participation of women in rural development focussed on treating rural women as beneficiaries of all rural and agricultural programmes, provisions of essential support services for rural women, promotion of programmes and appropriate technology to reduce domestic drudgery, improve local environment and recognise women's claim to land ownership. It suggested provision of village level organisation and rural women and representation of rural women in policy formulation, decision-making and advisory bodies at all levels.

The Ministry of Education initiated a National Adult Education Programme (NAEP) for women who constituted the majority of adult illiterates and appointed a special committee to advise on adult education programme for women. The National Policy on Education (1986) envisaged education as an agent of change in the status of women. It is expected to play a positive role in women empowerment through the development of new values by laying special emphasis on refashioned curricula, teachers training, gender studies and creating awareness among younger generation of females. The National Committee on Self-Employed Women (1987) in its

report "Shram Sakti" pointed towards the invisible representation of women in governmental programmes at all levels and insensitivity on the part of government officials towards understanding the needs and problems of poor working women in the unorganised sector. Similarly a working group under the Ministry of Social Welfare was set up to review the extent of participation of women in scientific establishments at various levels and suggest measures for facilitating greater involvement of women in science and technology. The need to utilize science and technology for improving the quality of life of rural women is urgent and this was sought to be achieved through low cost efficient fuel system, household solar cookers, solar drying equipment, simple technologies for household work, planting of energy forests, coal utilization, energy conservation, etc.

The National Perspective Plan for Women (1988-2000 AD) evaluated the impact of developmental plans and programmes and focussed on strategies responsive enough to meet women's need. It pointed out that material poverty was due to several constraints which imposed hardships on growing girls and women. It also reviewed the situation of women in rural development, agriculture, employment, supportive services, education, health, legislation, political participation and voluntary action while recommending inter-linked strategies towards overall development of women. The Department of Women and Child Development, Women's Unit in Planning Commission, Department or Directorate for Women's development

at state level, State Social Welfare Advisory Board are some other agencies through which women specific policies are being run at both Central and State levels. More recently, the National Commission on Women has been set up. The Commission is to look into matters like adequate protection to women through several governmental programmes besides suggesting remedial measures to meet any inadequacies and shortcomings in the existing laws. It would also inquire into specific problems arising out of discrimination and atrocities on women, identify the constraints and recommend strategies for their removal. Similarly state level, Women's Commissions are also to be established. The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (1993) is serving the credit requirements of the rural women through a credit delivery mechanism that is simple, client friendly and involves minimal procedures. The Kosh extends funds through NGOs in the form of self help groups to the poor women in rural and urban areas.

The earlier planning literature emphasized the welfare aspects reflected to women by providing support and extension services which had only a marginal impact on the common rural womenfolk as such policies and programmes did not effectively filter into the rural areas. A more realistic view was taken by the planners in the light of this shortcoming and the developmental dimension of women was given a new look in the form of individualistic approach at the time of launching the Sixth Five Year Plan. The strategies identified as a special component for women's development were economic independence,

educational advancement and health care and family planning. The issue of women equity and empowerment were sought to be achieved through creating awareness in income about their rights and privileges and training them for economic activity and employment. The Seventh Plan envisaged the establishment of more polytechnics for women to promote their technical and vocational skills. Moreover, in the Plan a new scheme called "Women's Development Corporation" was mooted to help the women in finance, project formulation and implementation. Women's Development Planning and Monitoring Cell were proposed to set up for data collection and monitoring of Plan programmes.[6] Other issues guiding the Seventh Plan were assessed to land resources (joint titles), various supporting mechanism and women's access to them like marketing, credit, technical and managerial access. Women's work contribution and drudgery also find a mention. The Eighth Plan has added a regional dimension to the gender issue and the whole issue so far neglected, is now to be addressed through decentralised planning involving local efforts. The associated social and infrastructure services are to be extended to the grass root level through an integrated policy package at block or village level.

In these years both role equity and role change are being synchronised at one and the same time to arrive at an optimum solution.[7] The emphasis on 30 per cent women representatinn is sufficient indicator to prove the willingness of the government to give women a fair share in

crafting socio-economic policies for their own betterment. Moreover, this legislation is available to local level democratic institutions like Panchayati Raj and other local level bodies. Besides the efforts at Plan level, women issue has been addressed through the pursuit of women specific policies also. At present more than sixty women specific schemes for the development of women are in operation, though it is a different matter that at the rural level the awareness of women on this front is only marginal and the entire exercise of making such policies have not yielded the desired result. Among the major programmes being pursued at present, mention can be made of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Mahila Samakhya, Science and Technology for Women, Women Entrepreneurship Programme, Condensed Courses of Education for Adult Women and Vocational Training, Entrepreneurial Development Programme, Aanganwadi and Balbadi, Nutrition Programme, etc. These schemes and programmes are being operated through various departments and ministries of Government of India, viz., Rural Development, Labour, Science and Technology, Women and Child Development, Industries, Education, Agriculture, Social Welfare, etc. However, most of these programmes have been characterised by poor coordination, work duplication, inadequate regional reach and poor identification of beneficiaries.

Since women, in general, and rural women in particular are under privileged on all social, economic and political fronts, it leads to their misery in the form of their discrimination, ex loitation and oppression in the male dominated world. In the rural areas, the traditions and values also restrict women's lives, behaviour and work opportunities. The religious norms, cast rules, poverty, social taboos and class values seek to confine women to traditional work, roles and opportunities. It seems imperative to increase their participation at the decision making levels, because without their voice being heard, the changes they need in employment, health and education may not materialise in their favour. Given such a state of development affairs and a variety of regional development issue, cropping at the national level which have widespread implications for the political economy of the region and the social fabric of the society it was thought appropriate to take this gender issue to the political economy of U.P. Hills where such work has still not been attempted in proper perspective. The entire gender issues in the hill region are being explored in the light of the current economic and political climate prevailing at present.

Historically, the sustained labour of women have been the pivot of the hill village economy. The cultural and ethical tradition guided by patriarchial consideration which by and large marginalises the womenfolk and passes

disproportionate gains to men is one of the major areas which is being looked into in this study. "Women constitute the backbone of the Himalayan economic system of U.P. as hill agriculture is absolutely dependent on them. Women generally work more than 15 hours a day, attending to agricultural system, cattles, collection of fuel, fodder and water as well as the normal duties within their homes. To outsiders these women are often perceived as being oppressed by the dominant males. However, a proper understanding of the status of women necessitate an indepth analysis of the role of women from cultural perspectives. The hard work of the hill women can be interpreted as their enterprising nature based on culture and community perception of shared need. It could be considered as an adaptable relationship between the communities and their environment dependent on demographic and social cultural structures."[8] Women's socio-economic contribution towards family and the community is highly significant but the reciprocal benefits conferred on them are disproportionate. Women undoubtedly play a unique role in the socio-economic set up of the hill economy. "Political economy and gender are integrally interrelated, since we cannot understand gender until we find its roots in the structure of relations of human being to the material base, which make the continuation of society possible. What is more to the point at this juncture, we do not fully understand political economy that nexus of relations of society to the material base without incorporating genders as

part of it."[9] This close connection between the political economy and gender is not difficult to locate as a high proportion of female workers in hill is found in agriculture which forms a major source of livelihood for the families. Further the female contribution in household work and in procuring energy based infrastructure vital for running the kitchen and family is a major issue which is addressed in the study. In fact the immense contribution of rural hill women needs a fresh review in the light of their overall social economic status, awareness, outlook and perception which have so far by and large been unsatisfactorily attended. Women from these hill regions are "consciously struggling with the inequitable burdens they and other women bear in relation to their livelihood, their political voice, their autonomy within their bodies and their lives. These burdens are increasingly understood as being continuously imposed on them by systems that support the subordination of women, both to men and in a large sense."[10] What is the exact nature of such work burden and the drudgery associated with it, visible or invisible is being examined in the light of the total social and economic inputs conferred to womenfolk and the resultant output they give (production/reproduction). The various imbalances at the deliverance level existing at present at family, societal and governmental levels which can otherwise prove to be a potential source for their empowerment and enhanced status have been pointed out at appropriate places. Finally, in the concluding chapter the

policy proposals based on the findings on this study have been made which can be helpful in mitigating this drudgery problem.

Scope, Objectives and Methodology

This study was sponsored by Uttarakhand Development Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, with the aim of examining the day to day working pattern of rural women and problems associated with their work in the Hill region of U.P. The present study is, therefore, confined to Hill region consisting of eight districts, viz. Uttarkasni, Chamoli, Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal and Dehradun in the Garhwal Division, and Nainital, Almora and Pithoragarh in the Kumaon Division. The study was conducted by the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow. One district each from the two divisions was, therefore, selected for the purpose of the study.

The Main Objectives of the Study

The study was conducted with the following broad objectives :

1. to analyse the pattern of work participation among women as well as men in the hill region;

2. to study the contribution of women in the economic and non-economic activities of the household;

3. to examine the level of participation of women in the development pr grammes being impl nented by Government for their betterment and to find out the socio-economic, religious and cultural constraints in their participation in these programmes;

4. to compare the level of work burden on women in the households from where the male members migrate as against the women of the household without migrants; 5. to identify the factors responsible for the drudgery on women; 6. to analyse the seasonal and locational variation in the burden of work among female members; 7. to examine the perception of women towards their socio-economic conditions, status and life pattern. 8. to suggest suitable ways through which the conditions of women can be improved without disturbing the family income and the ecological balance of the region.

The study, being empirical in nature, required a considerable data base and part of this was collected from secondary sources while a major proportion was gathered through interviews of some 340 women respondents with the help of a structured questionnaire specially designed for this purpose. This formed the basis of primary data and it was further supplemented and complemented from other sources, viz. officials of blocks, Gram Pradhans, NGOs, etc. The major portion of the study is based on primary information collected by trained field Investigators. A detailed analysis pertaining to working pattern of womenfolk in rural areas and their specific problem of outward drudgery has been made. An indepth study on status, awareness, outlook and perception of the womenfolk has also been attempted.

The focus of the study being the study of the rural women, the selection of the districts was done by taking into consideration the highest female work participation rate. Initially, the two districts, viz. Uttarkashi and Garhwal division and Pithoragarh in Kumaon division were selected on the basis of highest female work participation rate. However, in Garhwal division, district Chamoli (which is the second district in Garhwal division which has highest female work participation rate) was finally chosen for the purpose of survey work. This was done because of the recent earthquake (October 20, 1991) in district Uttarkashi, which disturbed the entire working pattern in the rural areas of the district as a result of damages in all the economic sectors and socio-economic infrastructural facilities. The normal behaviour of the life pattern has also been changed due to this natural calamity. Thus two districts Chamoli and Pithoragarh were finally selected as representative districts for the field survey.

The selection of Development Blocks in these representative districts was made by taking the criterion of some development indicators such as female literacy rate. In each sample district, two Development Blocks (one block having highest female literacy rate and other having lowest female literacy rate) were selected. In this way four Development Blocks, namely Karnprayag and Ghat in district Chamoli and Pithoragarh and Champawat in Pithoragarh district

were selected. Because of a general strike in the hill area and non-cooperation of staff in Ghat development block, we were forced to drop this block and we selected Joshimath development block instead.

For the purpose of selection of sample villages, all the villages in each selected Development Block were listed out from the block office and the villages were classified into two categories - upland villages and low land villages. From each category, one village was selected on the basis of random sampling. Although, eight villages (two villages from each selected Development Block) from two representative districts were identified for the purpose of survey. The name of representative districts, selected development blocks and the sample villages have been given below :

District	Selected Development Blocks	Sample Villages	No.of Sample Households
Chamoli	Joshimath	Panneygaon	40
		Baragaon	40
	Karn Prayag	Langasu	40
		Jhirkoti	40
Pithoragarh	Pithoragarh	Chhana	45
		Devat	45
	Champawat	Chaura Rajpur	45
		Kharkarki	45

The households in each selected village were enumerated and then the households in sample villages were classified

into two groups - migrant households (from where some male member has migrated) and non-migrant households (from where no male member has migrated). Again the households in each group were listed according to the size of land holding as well as social groups. On the basis of stratified random sampling, the households were proportionately selected from each group of households. Accordingly, the selected households were surveyed and detailed information was collected from one working woman in each of the selected households through a structured questionnaire. It was proposed that a minimum of 25 households or a maximum of 50 households would be selected from each selected village. Thus altogether 340 households, 160 from district Chamoli and 180 from district Pithoragarh were chosen. Informations thereby collected from women was further supplemented through personal observation, group discussions with local people especially women groups and from voluntary organisations active in the respective areas. The field survey was done by the female investigators and the survey was conducted during the months of June 1994 to November 1994.

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CHAPTER II

HILL ECONOMY AND THE ROLE OF WOMEN

The Hill Region of Uttar Pradesh is located in the north- western part of the state. The region is divided into two administrative divisions, viz., the Kumaon Division and the Garhwal Division. It comprises altogether eight districts, viz. Almora, Nainital and Pithoragarh falling in Kumaon Division and Chamoli, Uttarakashi, Tehri Garhwal, Pauri Garhwal and Dehradun falling in Garhwal Division. The Hill Region of Uttar Pradesh lies between 28^{0} 51' and 31^{0} 90' North latitudes and 78^{0} 00' and 81^{0} 03' East longitudes. As the name indicates the region is hilly except for a few plain areas between the redges and the Sub-Himalayan plateau in Dehradun and Nainital districts. It lies mainly in the greater and lesser Himalayas and partly in the Sub-Himalayan region. In general it has a rugged topography of terrain and some areas in high altitudes are inaccessible. Its altitude ranges between 300 to 7300 metres above the mean sea level. However, from the point of view of flora and fauna, this region is one of the richest regions in India. In respect of

geographical and economic features, the Hill region is composed of two dissimilar parts, the mountainous region and the sub-mountain terrain. The former constitutes nearly 98 per cent of the Hil region's total surface and includes six out of eight districts of the region and hill tehsils of remaining two districts. The mountainous part of the Hill region, thus encompasses the districts of Almora, Pithoragarh Uttarakashi, Chamoli, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal with the tehsils of Chakrata in Dehradun and the Nainital tehsil in district Nainital.

Due to the undulating topography uniformity in agro-climatic conditions are rarely observed. There exist wide variations in altitude, rainfall, vegetation, soil structure, density of population, etc. except in the plains of Nainital and Dehradun districts. Because of the highly undulating topography of the region and a large area under forests the options in land use are severely limited.

2.1 Demographic Features and Occupation

According to 1991 Census, the area and population of the Hill region of the state is 51,125 sq. kms. and about 59.27 lakhs constituting 17.98 per cent and 4.26 per cent of the state's area and the population respectively. In the total population of the region, the male population is 3031841 and female population is 2894305. About 78.30 per cent of the

population in Hill region live in 15166 villages. The growth rate of population has been 22.55 per cent in 1991 over 1981 in the region with variations in the districts. The growth rate is registered 6.90 per cent in district Pauri Garhwal and 35.44 per cent in district Nainital. While the growth rate of population in the state has been 25.48 per cent over the same period (Table 2.1). Districts like, Almora, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal and Pauri Garhwal witnessed population growth below the average rate of the Hill region's population growth. The Hill region of U.P. is sparsely populated, its density being only 116 persons per sq. kms. as against the average density of 473 for the state. The district-wise density of the region varies from 30 in Uttarkashi to 332 in Dehradun (Table 2.2). The density of population is recorded lowest in Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh and Chamoli in the state. The sex ratio in the region is relatively higher compared to that of the state, being 955 females per 1000 males in the Hill region as against 879 for the state. The sex ratio is more than 1000 females for 1000 males in Almora, Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal and Pauri Garhwal districts of the region. It is, however, below 900 in Nainital and Dehradun districts. The Scheduled Castes and Tribes population in the region is 16.70 per cent and 3.54 per cent respectively as compared to the respective percentages of 21.00 and 0.20 for the state, the total percentage of the two categories taken together being 20.24 per cent in Hill region compared to 21.20 per cent in the

Table 2.1 : District-wise Population in Hill Districts of U.P., 1991

District	Total Population			Rural Population			Urban Population			Decadal Population growth rate ('81-91)
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
Almora	836617	400900	435717	783110	370074	413036	53507	30826	22681	10.57
Nainital	1540174	823798	716376	1037210	550781	486429	502964	273017	229947	35.44
Pithoragarh	566403	285977	281111	524295	261674	262621	42113	23623	18490	15.75
Uttarkashi	239707	124978	114731	222448	114723	107725	17261	10255	7006	25.65
Chamoli	454871	227131	227740	414331	202168	212163	40540	24963	15577	25.00
Tehri Garhwal	580153	281934	298219	547258	260889	286369	32895	21045	11850	16.46
Dehradun	1025679	556432	469247	510199	274112	236087	515480	282320	233160	34.68
Pauri Garhwal	682535	331371	351164	601353	283753	317600	81182	47618	33564	6.90
Total of Hill Region	5926146	3031841	2894305	4640204	2318174	2322030	1285942	713667	572275	22.55
Uttar Pradesh	139112287	74036957	65075330	111506372	59197138	52309234	27605915	14839819	12766096	25.48

Source : Statistical Diary 1993, Uttaranchal, U.P., State Planning Institute, Lucknow, U.P.

state (Table 2.2). Variations have been observed in the proportion of Scheduled Castes and Tribes population among the districts of Hill region. It is lowest 13.74 per cent in Pauri Garhwal district and it is highest 23.74 per cent in Uttarkashi.

The level of literacy in the Hill region is higher than that of the state, both for males and females, as well as the average, being 75.51 per cent for the males, 42.87 per cent for the females and 59.58 per cent for the region, compared to 55.73 per cent, 25.31 per cent and 41.60 per cent for the state respectively (Table 2.2). The literacy level in Chamoli (61.08 per cent), Dehradun (69.50 per cent) and Pauri Garhwal (63.35 per cent) districts is above that of the Hill region. But in districts like, Almora, Pithoragarh, Uttarkashi, Chamoli and Tehri Garhwal, the literacy rate among female population is recorded lower than the average literacy rate of females in the region. The figures of 1991 census regarding literacy rate among female population in rural areas indicated that the female literacy rate in Hill region is substantially higher than that of the state average (Table 2.2). In Hill region, 37.05 per cent of the female population in rural areas is counted as literate compared to 19.02 per cent for the state. The female literacy rate in countryside is higher in all the districts of the region as compared to the state average. It is as low as 20.66 per cent in district Uttarkashi and as high as 47.08 per cent in district Pauri Garhwal.

Table 2.2 : Demographic Characteristics in Hill Districts of U.P.

District	% of Rural Population	Sex Ratio	Density of Population	% of SC	% of ST	Literacy Rate			Female Literacy Rate in Rural Area
						Total	Male	Female	
Almora	93.6	1086	155	22.02	0.33	58.66	79.96	39.60	37.31
Nainital	67.3	870	227	15.80	5.84	56.52	67.88	43.19	37.55
Pithoragarh	92.6	985	64	20.45	3.23	59.01	79.44	38.37	35.69
Uttarkashi	92.8	918	30	22.78	0.96	47.23	68.74	23.57	20.66
Chamoli	91.1	1003	50	17.49	2.26	61.08	82.01	40.37	38.35
Tehri Garhwal	94.3	1058	131	14.20	0.11	48.38	72.10	26.41	24.79
Dehradun	49.7	843	332	13.40	8.20	69.50	77.95	59.26	44.39
Pauri Garhwal	88.1	1060	126	13.52	0.22	63.35	82.46	49.44	47.08
Hill Region	73.3	955	116	16.70	3.54	59.58	75.51	42.87	37.05
Uttar Pradesh	80.2	879	473	21.00	0.20	41.60	55.73	25.31	19.02

Source : 1. Census of India, Series 1, Paper 2 of 1992, Final Population Totals.

2. Statistical Diary, 1993, Uttaranchal, U.P., State Planning Institute, Lucknow, U.P.

About 78.30 per cent of the total population in the region live in rural areas compared to 80.16 per cent in the state. However, in district Nainital and Dehradun, about 67.30 per cent and 49.70 per cent of their respective total population reside in rural areas. In the other districts of the region, the proportion of the rural population is substantially higher than the state average (Table 2.2). The percentage of main workers in the population is recorded higher in the Hill region compared to the state average, being 36.33 per cent in Hill region and 29.73 per cent in the state. Similarly, the proportion of main workers in the total population is found higher in all the districts of the region than the state's average (Table 2.3). It varies from 31.90 per cent in Pauri Garhwal to 48.00 per cent in Uttarkashi. One important characteristic feature of the Hill districts is the presence of a substantial high proportion of females workers in workforce. The relatively high proportion of females in the workforce in the Hill region, however, does not indicate better life. On the contrary, it only depicts their servitude to the hard economic life of their habitate. Women in general are engaged in low productivity activities in the primary sector. The work participation rate among females is constituted substantially higher (25.62 per cent) in the Hill region compared to state average (7.45 per cent). However, in the Hill region the main workers among males is constituted 46.61 per cent which is comparatively lower than

Table 2.3 : District-wise Population, Main Workers and Marginal Workers in Hill Region of Uttar Pradesh, 1991

(No. in Thousands)

District	Total Population		Main Workers		Marginal Workers		Total Workers	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Almora	400.9	435.7	167.8 (41.85)	168.7 (38.72)	10.0 (2.49)	47.4 (10.88)	177.8 (44.35)	216.1 (49.60)
Nainital	823.8	716.4	412.6 (50.08)	85.7 (11.96)	20.0 (2.42)	75.9 (10.59)	432.6 (52.51)	161.6 (22.56)
Pithoragarh	285.3	281.1	127.8 (45.49)	102.6 (36.50)	5.9 (2.08)	36.5 (12.98)	135.7 (47.56)	139.1 (49.48)
Uttarkashi	124.9	114.7	63.4 (50.76)	51.6 (44.99)	1.6 (1.28)	4.8 (4.18)	65.0 (52.04)	56.4 (49.17)
Chamoli	227.1	227.7	101.7 (44.78)	90.7 (39.83)	3.0 (1.32)	17.9 (7.86)	104.7 (46.10)	108.6 (47.69)
Tehri Garhwal	281.9	298.2	121.2 (42.99)	108.5 (36.38)	3.9 (1.38)	29.2 (9.79)	125.1 (44.38)	137.7 (46.18)
Dehradun	556.4	469.2	281.9 (50.66)	50.7 (10.80)	3.2 (0.57)	18.5 (3.94)	285.1 (51.24)	69.2 (14.75)
Pauri Garhwal	331.4	351.2	134.7 (40.64)	83.1 (23.66)	4.5 (1.36)	46.9 (13.35)	139.2 (42.00)	130.0 (37.01)
Hill Region	3031.8	2.94.3	1413.1 (46.61)	741.6 (25.62)	52.1 (1.72)	227.1 (9.73)	1465.2 (48.33)	1018.7 (37.01)
Uttar Pradesh	74037	65075	36510 (49.31)	4851 (7.45)	270 (0.36)	3169 (4.87)	36780 (49.68)	8020 (12.32)

Source : 1. Statistical Diary, U.P., 1993, Economic and Statistics Department, State Planning Institute, Lucknow, U.P.

2. Statistical Diary, Uttaranchal, 1993, Department of Uttaranchal, State Planning Institute, Lucknow, U.P.

3. Census of India, 1991.

49.31 per cent in the state (Table 2.3). Similarly the marginal workers among female population is also registered higher as compared to the state as a whole. The proportion of main workers among females is recorded considerably lower in the districts of Nainital and Dehradun where the respective percentages of female main workers are 11.96 and 10.80. Among the districts of Hill region, the female work participation rate (as main workers) is recorded highest about 45 per cent in Uttarkashi. It is 38.72 per cent in district Almora, 36.50 per cent in Pithoragarh, 39.83 per cent in Chamoli, 36.38 per cent in tehri Garhwal and 23.66 per cent in Pauri Garhwal (Table 2.3). The marginal workers in female population is recorded above the average of the region in districts like Almora, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal and Pauri Garhwal.

The major source of occupation and livelihood in the Hill region is agriculture. About 64.53 per cent of the total main workers in this region are engaged in agriculture, in comparison to 72.20 per cent of the total main workers of the state. Due to undulating topography and the prevalence of the traditional methods of cultivation, agriculture in hills is highly labour-intensive. This is reflected in a high percentage of workers in the population in the Hill districts of the region. In the two sub-Himalayan districts of Nainital and Dehradun, where the land surface is plain and the soil is fertile and modern techniques of cultivation are in use, the percentage of workers in the total population is

lower. In the total main workers, cultivators constitute 62.77 per cent in Hill region while this figure is 52.26 in the state. However, the proportion of agricultural labourers to the total main workers in the Hill region is 6.40 per cent as against 18.94 per cent for the state. In the Hill districts (excluding districts Nainital and Dehradun) the percentage of agricultural labourers in the total workforce is almost negligible. It varies from 0.8 per cent in districts Pithoragarh and Chamoli to 18.5 per cent in district Nainital (Table 2.4). The households in hill districts have no scope in agriculture to hire the persons from outside. All this shows is that agricultural labourer as an occupation is not a source of workforce in agriculture in Hill region. Due to fertile land and large holdings in the terai area of the region, agriculture has attracted persons as agricultural labourers. The occupational classification of female workers in hill districts indicate that about 93 per cent of them are engaged in agricultural sector as against 83.98 per cent in the state. This is because agriculture in Hill region is largely a women's job and the participation of men is confined only to a few selected operations. The limited participation of the males in the upland agriculture is partly a hang over of the cultural ethics of a primitive society in which the more settled and stereotyped tasks are entrusted to women and men usually undertake those occupations which involve considerable risk and travel. While in the total main

workers in Hill region about 50 per cent of the male workers are engaged in agricultural sector compared to 70.64 per cent in the state (Table 2.4).

The proportion of the main workers engaged in household industries in this region is less than one per cent as against about 2.41 per cent in the state. Among the female main workers merely 0.73 per cent are engaged in household industries in the region as compared to 3.54 per cent in the state as a whole. In district Tehri Garhwal, no single woman worker is engaged in household industries. The proportion of female main workers, engaged in household industries is recorded highest 1.66 per cent in district Pithoragarh while it is even lower than the state average. The workers engaged in other activities in the region constitute 34.6 per cent of its total main workers which is higher than the proportion of the other workers to the main workers of the state (25.38 per cent). Sex-wise figures shows that about 50 per cent male workers to its main workers are engaged in other activities as against 27.10 per cent in the state. However, the proportion of female main workers is only 6.57 per cent in Hill region who are classified as other workers whereas the state average is 12.48 per cent (Table 2.4). The low status of women workers can be thought of from their pitifully low percentage figures in better paid non-agricultural occupations. The plight of women workers in this regard in the two partially hilly districts of Nainital and Dehradun is relatively better. Among the six hilly districts, the

Table 2.4 : Occupational Classification of Main Workers in Hill Districts, 1991

(in Thousand)

District	Total Main Workers		Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Household Industry		Other Workers	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Almora	167.7	168.8	94.6	162.8	2.0	1.1	2.0	0.4	69.1	4.5
	(100.0)	(100.0)	(56.41)	(96.45)	(1.10)	(0.65)	(1.19)	(0.24)	(41.21)	(2.66)
Nainital	412.6	85.7	148.1	57.0	76.5	15.6	3.7	1.0	184.3	12.1
	(100.0)	(100.0)	(35.89)	(66.51)	(18.54)	(18.20)	(0.90)	(1.17)	(44.67)	(14.12)
Pithoragarh	129.8	102.6	73.3	97.4	1.3	0.5	2.1	1.7	53.1	3.0
	(100.0)	(100.0)	(56.47)	(94.93)	(1.00)	(0.49)	(1.62)	(1.66)	(40.91)	(2.92)
Uttarkashi	63.4	51.6	39.6	49.6	1.1	0.4	0.6	0.2	22.1	1.4
	(100.0)	(100.0)	(62.46)	(96.12)	(1.74)	(0.77)	(0.95)	(0.39)	(34.85)	(2.72)
Chamoli	101.7	90.7	54.0	86.6	1.2	0.4	0.9	1.3	45.6	2.4
	(100.0)	(100.0)	(53.10)	(95.48)	(1.18)	(0.44)	(0.88)	(1.43)	(44.84)	(2.65)
Tehri Garhwal	121.2	108.5	73.3	105.7	1.9	0.4	0.7	-	45.4	2.3
	(100.0)	(100.0)	(60.48)	(97.42)	(1.57)	(0.37)	(0.59)		(37.46)	(2.11)
Dehradun	281.9	50.7	49.3	25.3	26.1	5.5	2.3	0.6	204.2	19.3
	(100.0)	(100.0)	(17.49)	(49.90)	(9.25)	(10.85)	(0.82)	(1.18)	(72.44)	(38.07)
Pauri Garhwal	134.7	83.1	57.8	78.1	2.8	1.1	0.9	0.2	73.2	3.7
	(100.0)	(100.0)	(42.91)	(93.98)	(2.08)	(1.33)	(0.67)	(0.24)	(54.34)	(4.45)
Hill Region	1413.1	741.6	590.0	662.5	112.9	25.0	13.2	5.4	697.0	48.7
	(100.0)	(100.0)	(41.76)	(89.33)	(7.89)	(3.37)	(0.93)	(0.73)	(49.32)	(6.57)
Uttar Pradesh	36510	4851	19694	2337	6096	1737	825	172	9895	605
			(53.94)	(48.17)	(16.70)	(35.81)	(2.26)	(3.54)	(27.10)	(12.48)

Note : **Figures in brackets are the percentages**

Source : Statistical Diary, 1993, Uttaranchal U.P. Department of Uttaranchal, State Planning Institute, Lucknow, U.P.

proportion of female workers engaged in non-agricultural activities in their total workforce varies from 2.11 per cent in district Tehri Garhwal to 4.45 per cent in Pauri Garhwal. There has been concentration of female workers in agriculture in those districts of the Hill region where the literacy rate is lower among the females in rural areas.

2.2 Land Use Pattern and Agriculture

The total reporting area of eight districts in the Hill region is recorded 5358.6 thousand hectares during 1990-91 accounting for 17.98 per cent of the state's reporting area (29793.2 thousand hectares). Looking at the land use statistics in the Hill region, it is observed that area under forest was 3424.8 thousand hectares during 1990-91. This worked out to be 63.92 per cent of the reporting area. The forests of the state are mainly confined to this region and to the boardering Terai belt. The forests in the Hill region constitute about 66.35 per cent of the total forests of the state, while 17.33 per cent of the reporting area is under forests in the state as a whole (Table 2.5). The proportion of area under forests in the region varies from 51.84 per cent in district Pithoragarh to 88.61 per cent in Uttarkashi. The forests in Hill region are classified as Reserve Forests, Civil and Soyam Forests and Panchayat Forests. In the Hill region of the state around 70 per cent of the total forest

Table 2.5 : Land Use Pattern in Hill Districts of U.P. : 1990-91

(Area in Hectares)

District	Repor- ting Area	Forest	Cultur- able waste	Fallow	Barren & Cultura- ble waste	Land put to Non- agricul- tural uses	Past- ures	Trees and Groves	Net Area Sown
Almora	726881 (100.00)	392149 (53.95)	61058 (8.40)	8590 (1.18)	32658 (4.49)	17709 (2.44)	61619 (8.48)	47177 (6.49)	105921 (14.57)
Nainital	704226 (100.00)	405170 (57.53)	28875 (4.10)	9896 (1.41)	4352 (0.62)	32621 (4.63)	1167 (0.17)	16154 (2.29)	205991 (29.25)
Pithoragarh	637139 (100.00)	330289 (51.84)	54847 (8.61)	13944 (2.19)	26382 (4.14)	15417 (2.42)	82952 (13.02)	44914 (7.05)	68394 (10.73)
Uttarkashi	801619 (100.00)	710278 (88.61)	9194 (1.15)	3958 (0.49)	20363 (2.54)	6973 (0.87)	14080 (1.76)	7716 (0.96)	29057 (3.62)
Chamoli	840704 (100.00)	520361 (61.90)	33190 (3.95)	1696 (0.21)	164152 (19.53)	18010 (2.14)	21725 (2.58)	35196 (4.17)	46374 (5.52)
Tehri Garhwal	574543 (100.00)	397200 (69.13)	71374 (12.42)	8281 (1.44)	11981 (2.09)	10794 (1.88)	2794 (0.49)	22 (0.01)	72097 (12.54)
Dehradun	315497 (100.00)	219811 (69.67)	14441 (4.58)	7412 (2.35)	1662 (0.53)	17616 (5.58)	99 (0.03)	4325 (1.37)	50131 (15.89)
Pauri Garhwal	757986 (100.00)	449599 (59.31)	44035 (5.81)	17844 (2.35)	33968 (4.48)	17357 (2.29)	42957 (5.68)	61084 (8.06)	91142 (12.02)
Hill Region	5358595 (100.00)	3424857 (63.92)	317014 (5.91)	71621 (1.34)	295518 (5.51)	136497 (2.55)	227393 (4.24)	216588 (4.04)	669107 (12.49)
Uttar Pradesh	29793172 (100.00)	5161957 (17.33)	1033706 (3.47)	1968384 (6.61)	1034657 (3.47)	2447167 (8.21)	302757 (1.02)	545199 (1.83)	17299345 (58.06)

Source : Statistical Diary, 1993, Uttaranchal, U.P., Uttaranchal Department, State Planning Institute, U. P.

area is under the control of forest department. The land area available for cultivation is very much limited in Hill region accounting for 12.49 per cent of the total reporting area of the region. While this figure is more than 58 per cent in Uttar Pradesh. The area for cultivation is found in river valleys lying in between the hills of mountains and on hilly tracks terrace farming is in practice. The plain areas of districts Nainital and Dehradun have useful and productive cultivation as a result of large proportion of reporting area under cultivation. A significant variation is observed in the pattern of land utilization (area under cultivation) in the districts of the region. District Uttarkashi has an insignificant proportion of net sown area to its reporting area; 3.62 per cent of the reporting area being under cultivation (Table 2.5). District Nainital has the highest proportion of net area sown in the region which is 29.25 per cent of the reporting area. This is also significantly lower than the state average. The proportion of fallow and uncultivable land is at a higher rate in those districts which have relatively lower proportion of net area sown or area under forests or both to their respective reporting area in the hill region.

Most of the area under plough is utilized for the foodgrain cultivation in Hill region. In this region 85 per cent of the total cropped area falls under foodgrains. Only 15 per cent of the cropped area is under commercial crops in

the region as against state's average of 20.02 per cent. When we compare the degree of commercialization in agriculture in the hilly districts with the partially hilly districts of the region, we find that in the hilly districts commercial cropping is relatively in lower proportion. In Nainital and Dehradun districts a sizeable proportion of the cropped area is under commercial crops, being 27 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. Due to lack of irrigation facilities and rocky terrain, most of the cultivated area is not irrigated in the hill region. Taking together all the districts of Hill region, only 34.91 per cent of net area sown was irrigated as against 60.82 per cent in the state as a whole during 1990-91 (Table 2.6). When the figures related to irrigated areas of districts Nainital and Dehradun are separated from the irrigated areas of rest of the hill districts, it is found that the proportion of irrigated area varies from 5.37 per cent in district Chamoli to 15.25 per cent in Uttarkashi, whereas the proportion of irrigated area is accounted 81.40 per cent in district Nainital and 44.77 per cent in Dehradun (Table 2.6). In total the gross irrigated area is 147.7 lakh hectares in Hill region and the net irrigated area is recorded 105.2 lakh hectares. The cropping intensity in all the districts of the region is recorded above the state's average, being 164.29 in Hill region and 147.29 in the state. Due to lack of irrigation facilities in Hill districts, the level of chemical fertilizer consumption in agriculture is extremely low. However, in the partially hilly districts, viz. Nainital and

Table 2.6 : Agricultural Pattern in Hill Region : 1990-91

District	Net Area Sown (Ha.)	Area Sown more than once (Ha.)	Gross Cropped Area (Ha.)	Cropping intensity	Net area irrigated (Ha.)	Gross Irrigated Area (Ha.)	% of Area under food-grains	Average yield rate of food-grains (Qtls/ Ha.)	Per ha. chemical Fertilizer use (Kgs)
Almora	105921 (100.00)	69261	175182	165.39	12925 (12.20)	25551	94.39	10.85	6.45
Nainital	205991 (100.00)	135658	341649	165.86	167676 (81.40)	253651	72.54	26.18	206.79
Pithoragarh	68394 (100.00)	54278	122672	179.36	5524 (8.08)	9697	90.28	12.24	4.10
Uttarkashi	29057 (100.00)	16158	45215	155.61	4433 (15.26)	7999	77.21	14.15	10.70
Chamoli	46374 (100.00)	26146	72520	156.30	2492 (5.37)	4762	88.66	12.09	6.77
Tehri Garhwal	72097 (100.00)	46681	118778	164.75	10024 (13.90)	19471	93.41	12.81	5.80
Dehradun	50131 (100.00)	35437	85568	170.69	22444 (44.77)	37691	74.87	15.60	42.98
Pauri Garhwal	91142 (100.00)	46580	137722	151.11	8092 (8.88)	14482	95.18	11.73	4.79
Hill Region	669107 (100.00)	430199	1099306	164.29	233610 (34.91)	373304	84.53	16.00	73.01
Uttar Pradesh	17299345 (100.00)	8180497	25479842	147.29	10522145 (60.82)	14771152	79.98	17.43	88.71

Source : Statistical Diary, 1993, Uttaranchal, U.P., Uttaranchal Department, State Planning Institute, U. P.

Dehradun, the per hectare use of fertilizer is recorded 206 kgs. and 43 kgs. respectively. While this figure is about 89 kgs. for the state. In other districts of the region, per hectare use of fertilizer in agriculture varies from 4 kgs. in district Pithoragarh to 11 kgs. in Uttarkashi. The main crops which are generally grown in the region are paddy, wheat, maize, barley, sawa, madua and pulses. However, crops like sugarcane, gram and soyabean are also grown in the terai belt of Nainital and Dehradun districts. The average yield rate of the foodgrains is recorded slightly lower in Hill region compared to the state's average. The average yield rate of foodgrains in hill region is 16 qtls. per hectare as against 17.43 quintals in the state (Table 2.6). Except in district Nainital, the average production of foodgrains is recorded lower in all the districts of the region compared to state's average.

2.3 Land Holdings

According to Agricultural Census of Uttar Pradesh for 1985-86, the total number of operational holdings in Hill region is 7.67 lakhs with an area of 7.31 lakh hectares, as against 189.85 lakh holdings with an area of 176.48 lakh hectares in the state. The average size of land holding in the Hill region is 0.95 hectare which is slightly larger than 0.93 hectare in the state. Among the districts of Hill

region, the average land holding size varies from 0.58 hectare in Pithoragarh to 1.83 hectares in district Nainital. About 71 per cent of the holdings with 25.6 per cent of the total cultivated area are marginal holdings (below 1 hectare); the size of holding in the category being a mere 0.34 hectare. Another 16.7 per cent of the holdings with 24.8 per cent of the total area are between 1-2 hectares. The marginal and small holdings (below 2 hectares) constitute about 87.68 per cent of the operational holdings in Hill region with 50.4 per cent of the total cultivated area. The number of land holding size between 4 hectares to 10 hectares constitute about 3.4 per cent of the total holdings in the hill region while the percentage of holdings which are above 10 hectares are merely 0.3 per cent.

About 46.4 lakhs (78.30 per cent of the total population) people of the Hill region live in 15166 villages and their livelihood is mainly agriculture. Of the total villages in Uttar Pradesh, about 13.47 per cent villages are in the districts of Hill region, while only 4.16 per cent of the total state's rural population is residing in the region (Table 2.7). The villages in the Hill region are very small in population size and scattered in nature. Of the total villages in the region more than 82 per cent villages have less than 500 population each, while this figure is 47 in the state as a whole. The villages in the region which have population less than 200, constitute more than 57 per cent in the total villages. Districts like Nainital and Dehradun

have relatively higher percentage of villages having larger size of population.

The infrastructural facility like electricity is provided in 74.85 per cent villages in the Hill region upto March 1993, which is also by and large equal to the state's average. In district Nainital, all the villages are electrified while about 32 per cent villages are yet to be provided electricity connections in district Pauri Garhwal (Table 2.7). Use of electricity per hectare of net sown area and the percentage of electricity consumption in agriculture to total consumption are relatively low in the region as compared to the state. The per capita consumption of electricity is recorded 174 kwh in Hill region as against 199.4 kwh in the state. Drinking water supply is one of the basic needs for the people. So far as water supply to the rural areas is concerned, it is found that 75.23 per cent of the total inhabited villages suffer from scarcity of water supply for domestic consumption in the Hill region (Table 2.7). According to official figures, upto March 1993, about 98 per cent of the scarcity villages have been covered in this region from the view point of providing drinking water supply. The percentage of the scarcity villages covered under water supply scheme are cent percent in district Uttarkashi, 99.7 per cent in Chamoli, 99.6 per cent in Nainital, 98.4 per cent in Almora, 98.0 per cent in Dehradun. In district Pauri Garhwal 95.2 per cent scarcity villages have been provided drinking water facility. The level and

structure of other infrastructural facilities in the region will be discussed later on.

Table 2.7 : Electrification and Drinking Water Supply in Rural Areas

District	% of Rural Population to Total Population (1991)	No. of inhabited villages (1991)	% of Villages electrified (Upto March 1993)	% of Water scarcity villages	% of Scarcity villages which have been provided drinking water(Upto March '93)
Almora	93.60	3024	79.63	78.00	98.4
Nainital	67.34	1799	100.00	91.22	99.6
Pithoragarh	92.57	2186	65.28	70.49	98.2
Uttarkashi	92.80	678	88.79	63.27	100.0
Chamoli	91.09	1569	65.39	73.23	99.7
Tehri Garhwal	94.33	1959	68.71	80.30	97.8
Dehradun	49.74	746	95.58	78.15	98.0
Pauri Garhwal	88.11	3205	63.18	66.61	95.2
Hill Region	78.30	15166	74.81	75.23	98.00
Uttar Pradesh	80.16	112566	74.85		74.74

Source : Statistical Diary, 1993, Uttaranchal, U.P., State Planning Institute, Uttar Pradesh

2.4 Level of Industrialisation

The performance of the hill economy on the industrial front highlights that so far the forte of the regional

economy rests in its agriculture sector. However, the industrial sector, which so far is comparatively small and underdeveloped, exhibits good potential for substantial growth in the future dates. The number of working industries registered under the Factories Act, 1948, in Hill region was 461 in 1987-88 sharing 6.15 per cent of the total industries in the state. These industries were giving employment to 28594 workers in the region, registering 62 persons per industry as against 82 persons per factory in the state (Table 2.8). Districts like, Uttarkashi and Chamoli have no industrial units registered under Factories Act, 1948. However, more than 94 per cent of the industries are located in the districts of Nainital and Dehradun. This indicates that the industrial base is negligible in hilly districts of the region. Per factory number of workers is recorded highest 97 in district Pithoragarh and lowest 26 in district Tehri Garhwal. So far industrial output has contributed precious little to the net domestic product of the region and its per capita industrial production also falls much below the state average. The per worker value of industrial production has been Rs.1.52 lakhs in the Hill region and Rs.1.93 lakhs in the state. Looking to the figure of per factory value of annual production it is found that the per factory value of annual production in Hill region is found to be substantially lower as compared to state's average being Rs.94.35 lakhs in Hill region and Rs.157.54 lakhs in the state (Table 2.8). Overall, the process of diversification

of the regional economy from primary occupations to manufacturing industries is gaining momentum over time.

Table 2.8 : Performance of Industries Established Under the Factories Act, 1948

District	No. of working industries under Factories Act, 1948 (1987-88)	No. of Workers employed (1987-88)	Per Factory No. of Workers (1987-88)	Value of Total Annual production (in Rs. Lakhs)	Per Worker Annual Production (in Rs. Lakhs)	Per Factory Value of Annual Prodn. (in Rs. Lakhs)
Almora	11	705	64	702	0.99	63.82
Nainital	316	19739	62	31140	1.58	98.54
Pithoragarh	4	389	97	140	0.36	35.00
Uttarkashi	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chamoli	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tehri Garhwal	4	105	26	315	3.00	78.75
Dehradun	119	7335	62	10984	1.50	92.30
Pauri Garhwal	7	321	46	227	0.71	32.43
Hill Region	461	28594	62	43511	1.52	94.38
Uttar Pradesh	7498	613006	82	1181200	1.93	157.54

Source : Statistical Diary, 1993, Uttaranchal, U.P., State Planning Institute, Uttar Pradesh

However, despite the apparent inferiority of agricultural and industrial base of the Hill economy, the per capita value of net domestic product from commodity producing sectors is registered higher in the region than the state's

average. During 1988-89, the value of per capita net domestic product was Rs.1818 (at current prices) as against Rs.1533 in the state as a whole. Within the region it was recorded highest Rs.2955 in district Nainital and lowest Rs.1010 in district Pauri Garhwal. The forest resources of the region have a significant share in the net domestic product. During 1990-91 the total number of working industrial units in the Hill region were 28486 and of which more than 48 per cent units were concentrated in district Nainital. District Tehri Gahrwal accounted the lowest rank as far as establishment of industrial units are concerned where merely 0.77 per cent units of the region were located. During 1990-91, the number of industrial estates in the Hill region was 9 as against 89 in the state. Only in three districts of the region, namely, Nainital, Dehradun and Pauri Garhwal the industrial estates have been identified. Looking at the figures related to the size wise number of industrial units, it is found that upto March 1993, the number of small scale industries in the Hill region was 26252 as against 312348 in the state. The number of large and medium scale industries in the region was 158 accounting 0.60 per cent of the total industries. Districts Chamoli and Uttarkashi do not have large and medium scale industries. The total investment in these small, medium and large scale industries in Hill region is Rs.1077.24 crores.

As far as employment is concerned, about 2.36 lakh persons are employed in both private and public sectors in

the Hill region as against 26.78 lakhs in the state. About 86 per cent of the persons are engaged in public sector in the region. In districts like Pithoragarh, Uttarkashi, Chamoli and Tehri Garhwal, this figure is substantially higher than the average of the region. However, the private sector is comparatively developed in district Nainital as witnessed by the fact that the contribution of this sector in employment has been 25.83 per cent which is also higher than the state average.

Despite the gross underdevelopment of the region the Hill region has a high value of per capita net product from commodity producing sector. Most of the economic excellence of the region is due to the economic performance of the sub-Himalayan terrain. The region seems better off as far as per capita net domestic product is concerned. It is because of the low density of population and the large contribution of the forest sector to the net domestic product of the region. Hill region tops the list of economic regions in the state as far as some development indicators suggest. The districtwise development indicators are misleading concepts at least in respect of hill region. Because of low standard of living, hardship of life, dearth of investment and capital formation, sparse population, low level of consumption, unemployment, poverty and high cost of living, the hill region, by and large, is pronounced as one of the backward regions in the country. Furthermore, the high cost of transport is the main factor which has held back the region from taking benefits of

its natural advantages in forest, mineral and climatic resources. Because of differences in the economic base, economic potential, man power resource and also in respect of growth momentum between the hill region and the plain region, there can not be a strategy of holiestic planning, based on uniform schemes of development for the entire state.

2.5 Efforts for Hill Development in Five Year Plans

The backwardness of the region and its special problem caught the attention of planners of this region as early as in the Third Five Year Plan (1961-66). A separate Hill Development Department was created by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in the year 1973-74 and the sole responsibility has been given to the Department for overall development of the region. The planned efforts for hill development through public expenditure are being made by taking into consideration the specific problems and needs of the people in the region. Since the inception of this department attention has been given to the development of agriculture and allied activities associated with it, public utilities and other infrastructural facilities, such as road, transport, power, education and water supply. The major part of planned expenditure during Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans had been accorded to agriculture, transport, water, housing, town development, education, power and other public utilities services. The total planned

expenditure on the development of hill region has been Rs.216811.48 lakhs during the period of Fourth to Seventh Five Year Plans. Of the total expenditure upto Seventh Five Year Plan, in the hill region, agriculture and irrigation alone shared about 24.54 per cent. The second major item of expenditure has been transport and communication in which about 20 per cent of the total expenditure is incurred. Drinking water supply, housing, town area development have also been major items of expenditure accounting for 16.50 per cent of the total expenditure (Table 2.9). Moreover, specific rural development programmes for improving the socio-economic conditions of weaker sections and other target groups of the region had been launched by the government during the past few years. Emphasis has also been given to the power sector in the region during the previous plans and about 9 per cent of the total outlay had been spent on this sector. Similarly, planned approach had been accorded to health sanitation, development of SC and ST, social security and art, culture and sports.

To boost up the economy and strengthen the productive activities in the hill region more emphasis has been given during Eighth Five Year Plan and the total outlay of Rs.210500 lakhs has been earmarked for the region. The total outlay of Eighth Five Year Plan is substantially higher than the outlay of Seventh Plan, registering 73.51 per cent more than the previous plan (Table 2.9). Of the total outlay, about 24 per cent (Rs.50355 lakhs) has been allocated for the

Table 2.9 : Plan Wise Total Expenditure and Outlay in the Hill Region

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Head of Expenditure	Fourth Five Year Plan	Fifth Five Year Plan	Sixth Five Year Plan	Seventh Five Year Plan	Eighth Five Year Plan
Agriculture and Allied Activities	1643.70	2970.89	8037.41	23988.91	50355
Rural Development	115.31	1137.01	4109.24	7965.48	17535
Irrigation & Flood Control	947.68	2322.35	5078.01	8221.70	9650
Power and Energy	599.92	1500.72	5715.53	12422.11	26500
Industries & Mines	291.80	822.74	2618.17	4839.69	6550
Transport	1796.72	6592.12	15326.84	18604.00	29750
Science, Technology and Environment	-	-	18.22	52.50	450
General Economic Services	74.87	433.36	911.50	3755.79	8958
Education, Sports, Arts & Culture	681.03	2613.29	7630.36	13386.66	21850
Medical & Public Health	125.54	401.43	1761.14	3758.46	6500
Water supply, Housing & Town Development	921.77	3000.80	12462.83	19476.90	20300
Information & Extension	3.79	3.56	25.22	73.21	150
Welfare of SC/ST	105.94	240.06	518.42	1724.61	2825
Labour & Labour Welfare	20.59	172.81	661.50	1451.17	3077
Social Security and Nutrition	4.84	81.19	395.28	1155.71	6050
Public Works	-	-	-	439.08	-
Total	7333.50	22292.33	65869.67	121315.98	210500

development of agriculture and allied activities. Transport is the second major head of expenditure in the Eighth Five Year Plan for which about 14.13 per cent of the total outlay has been earmarked. For the development of power sector in the region, provision of about 12.59 per cent of the total planned outlay has been made. Attention has also be given to development of rural areas and welfare of the weaker sections of the society in the region during the Eighth Five Year Plan and an allocation of Rs.20360 lakhs has been made (Table 2.9). During Eighth Five Year Plan, about 10.38 per cent of the total outlay of the plan has been demarcated for education, sports, art and culture.

Population pressure, scarcity of arable land, deteriorating natural and atmospheric conditions, absence of infrastructure, dearth of entrepreneurship, overall dearth of adequate investment in various economic sphere, lack of diversification of economy and predominantly non-market character of agriculture have kept the hills in continued backwardness and this state of affairs has resulted in the failure of the economy to accommodate the growing labour forces which explains the phenomenon of Migration of various forms. Out-migration has been one of the important demographic characteristic of the region. The male population (able bodied) have formed wide spread habits of going forth toeke-out a living. Usually, women, children and old persons in the family remain in the home while the young

men tend to migrate from the region in search of employment. Various forms of migration such as, seasonal, semi-permanent and permanent are seen in the region. Money remitted by these non-resident earners forms a significant part of total resources at the disposal of local residents. It has been found that the magnitude of migration is very large and about 10-20 per cent of the population tends to migrate from the region as indicated by various studies conducted in this regard. The females in the households have to do hard work in all economic and non-economic activities in the region. We have already discussed that work participation rate among females is found to be at a higher rate in the Hill region. The female members share maximum responsibility within the household as well as outside. The migration of able-bodied male members from the region have also added other responsibilities on the shoulders of women. Consequently, the migration of male members has further aggravated the drudgery on the females. The female members of those households from where the migration of male members takes place have to perform the jobs of the male members. In addition to agricultural work, the women have to collect fodder, fuelwood and water from far of places. Looking after the aged members and children of the family, grinding of grains, husking of paddy and extracting oil from oilseeds are also tasks which are solely done by women in the Hill region. Due to adverse geo-climatic conditions in the region, with the depletion of natural resources, the essential necessity such as water, fuelwood, and grass have become scarce in the

Himalayan region. Consequently, the women have to cover a long distance to procure fuel, fodder and water. It lead not only to a wastage of time but also adds to the drudgery of women-folk.

There have been debates on the issue of migration and its impact on the local economy from where such migration takes place. In the case of U.P. Hills, though migration has lead to some monetary benefits to the local residents, but at the cost of increasing additional work liability on the women. Whenever we talk of backwardness of the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh, our focus of attention shifts to the pity conditions of women in particular and hardship and poor conditions of the common people. In the following pages, we have discussed the socio-economic profiles of the districts which have been surveyed.

2.6 Socio-Economic Profile of Districts Chamoli and Pithoragarh

As already mentioned earlier the districts of Chamoli and Pithoragarh have been selected for field survey in our present research study. It would be worthwhile to give an account of the main characteristic features, viz. demographic structure, agricultural pattern, work participation, occupational pattern, industrial development and infrastructural facilities in the selected districts. Therefore, an attempt has been made to highlight the socio-

economic profile of these two districts. District Chamoli falls in the Garhwal Administrative Division while district Pithoragarh falls in Kumaon Division. The total geographical area of district Chamoli is 9168 sq. kms. and district Pithoragarh has an area of 8856 sq. kms., accounting 3.11 per cent and 3.01 per cent of the state respectively. Of the total geographical area of hill region, about 17.93 per cent and 17.32 per cent area is shared by these two respective districts.

2.7 Demographic Characteristics

According to 1991 census, the population of district Chamoli is 4.55 lakhs and the district Pithoragarh has 5.66 lakhs population, accounting for 7.68 per cent and 9.56 per cent of the total population of U.P. Hills respectively. The growth rate of population during the period 1981-91 has been 24.8 per cent in district Chamoli and 15.8 per cent in Pithoragarh, as against 22.55 per cent in the Hill region and 25.48 per cent in the state as a whole (Table 2.10). Most of the population in both the districts lives in rural area. The rural population is 91.06 per cent in district Chamoli and 92.57 per cent in Pithoragarh. These figures are substantially higher than the corresponding figures of the Hill region (78.30 per cent) as well as the state (80.16 per cent). The number of inhabited villages in district Chamoli is 1569 and in district Pithoragarh is 2166. The villages in

both the districts are sparsely and thinly populated and more than 91 per cent of the villages have population of less than 500 persons. The corresponding figure is 88.56 per cent in whole of the Hill region and 47.27 per cent in the state.

The Scheduled Castes and Tribes constitute 19.75 per cent in district Chamoli and 23.68 per cent in district Pithoragarh in the total population of the respective districts. This figure is 20.25 per cent in the region and 21.28 per cent in the state. The density of population in these districts is significantly lower than the average of the region and the state. It is 50 persons per sq. km. in district Chamoli and 64 persons in district Pithoragarh whereas the average figure of the density of population is 116 persons per sq. km. in the Hill region and 473 persons in the state as a whole (Table 2.10). The sex ratio is 1003 and 985 in district Chamoli and Pithoragarh respectively which is higher than the average of the region as well as of the state. The rate of literacy in both the districts is comparatively higher than that found in the state as a whole. The literates constitute 61.08 per cent in district Chamoli and 59.01 per cent in District Pithoragarh in the total population, whereas in the Hill region 59.58 per cent population is literate as against 41.60 per cent in the state (Table 2.10). When we look at the figures of sex-wise rate of literacy we observe that the rate of literacy among males in both the districts is relatively higher than the average figures of literacy rate in the region. It is significantly

higher than the average of literacy rate among males in the state (Table 2.10). The most striking feature of literacy is the female literacy rate which is 40.37 per cent in district Chamoli and 38.37 per cent in Pithoragarh which is quite higher than the state's female literacy rate (25.31 per cent). However, the female literacy rate in both the districts is slightly lower than the female literacy rate of 42.87 per cent in the region as a whole.

Table 2.10 : Demographic Characteristics of Districts Chamoli and Pithoragarh

Description	Chamoli	Pithora-garh	U.P. Hills	U.P.
Total population (1991-in lakhs)	4.55	5.66	59.27	1391
Population Growth rate (in %) during 1981 and 1991	24.80	15.80	22.55	25.48
Percentage of Total Population (1991):				
(a) Rural	91.09	92.57	78.30	80.16
(b) Urban	8.91	7.43	21.70	19.84
SC and ST as Percentage of Total Population (1991)	19.75	23.68	20.25	21.28
Density of Population (Population per sq.km. - 1991)	50	64	116	473
Sex ratio (No. of Females per 1000 males - 1991)	1003	985	955	879
Literates as Percentage of Total Population - 1991	61.08	59.01	59.58	41.60
(a) Male	82.01	79.44	75.51	55.73
(b) Female	40.37	38.37	42.87	25.31

Table 2.10 (contd...)

Description		Chamoli	Pithoragarh	U.P. Hills	U.P.
Workers as Percentage of Total Population (1991) :					
(a) Main Workers :	i) Total	42.30	41.03	36.36	29.73
	ii) Male	44.77	45.50	46.61	49.31
	iii) Female	39.83	36.50	25.62	7.45
(b) Marginal Workers :					
	i) Total	4.59	7.48	5.55	2.47
	ii) Male	1.32	2.07	1.72	0.37
	iii) Female	7.86	12.98	9.52	4.87
Percentage of main workers as (1991):					
(a) Cultivators :	i) Total	73.1	73.4	58.1	53.27
	ii) Male	53.1	56.5	41.8	53.94
	iii) Female	95.5	94.9	89.3	48.18
(b) Agricultural Labourers:					
	i) Total	0.8	0.8	6.4	18.98
	ii) Male	1.2	1.0	8.0	16.70
	iii) Female	0.5	0.5	3.4	35.82
(c) Household Industry & Manufacturing:					
	i) Total	1.1	1.6	0.9	2.42
	ii) Male	0.9	1.6	0.9	2.26
	iii) Female	1.4	1.7	0.7	3.55
(d) Other Workers :					
	i) Total	25.0	24.2	34.6	25.37
	ii) Male	44.8	40.9	49.3	27.10
	iii) Female	2.6	2.9	6.6	12.48

Source : 1. Census of India, 1981; 2. Statistical Diary, 1993, Uttaranchal, U.P., State Planning Institute, Lucknow.

According to data of 1991 census regarding the occupational characteristics of population in Chamoli and Pithoragarh districts, the total main workers constitute

42.30 per cent in district Chamoli and 41.03 per cent in Pithoragarh in their respective total population. These figures are comparatively higher than the corresponding figures of the Hill region as well as of the state. The percentage of main workers in the total population is 36.36 per cent in the Hill region and 29.73 per cent in the state. Among the male population, the work participation rate, by and large, is equal in both the districts as well as in the region, but the state's average is comparatively higher. However, the work participation rate among female population is quite high in both the districts compared to the state's average. The main workers constitute 39.83 per cent in district Chamoli and 36.50 per cent in Pithoragarh in the female population of the respective districts, as against the corresponding figure of 25.62 per cent in the Hill region and merely 7.45 per cent in the state as a whole (Table 2.10). In the case of marginal workers, the proportion of female marginal workers in their population is substantially higher than the proportion of marginal workers in the population of their counterparts. The marginal workers in the total population constitute 4.59 per cent in district Chamoli and 7.48 per cent in district Pithoragarh, while it is 5.55 per cent in the region and 2.47 per cent in the stae. The cultivators, as the percentage of main workers, are about 73 per cent in both the districts under study. However, the percentage of main workers engaged as cultivators is 58.1 per cent in the region and 53.27 per cent in the state (Table

2.10). As we have already mentioned that the agriculture in Hill region of the state is, basically a women's job. This is proved from the fact that more than 90 per cent of the female main workers are engaged in agriculture in both the districts as against the state's average of about 84 per cent female main workers who are engaged in agriculture. While this proportion is quite low among male main workers, who are engaged in agriculture in both the districts as well as in the region. The land holdings in Hill region are very small and the employment opportunities are not available in the non-agricultural activities. Therefore, most of the workers in the households are engaged in agriculture and it has no scope to employ the workers from outside. As a result of this, the concept of agricultural labourers is insignificant in the Hill region. The occupational pattern indicates that the agricultural labourers constitute less than one per cent in total main workers in both the districts which is quite below the state average. However, due to the Tarai area in district Nainital and Dehradun, the average of the main workers working as agricultural labourers is accounted 6.4 per cent in the Hill region. In Uttar Pradesh, about 18.98 per cent ofthe main workers have their occupation as agricultural labourers (Table 2.10). However, the percentage of women workers is 35.85 who are classified as agricultural labourers in the state which is more than double of the male workers. The household industries are not developed in the Hill region. Of the total main workers, a little more than

one per cent in district Chamoli and about one and a half per cent workers in district Pithoragarh are engaged in household industry and manufacturing. The average figure of workers in this category is slightly above in the state as a whole, accounting 2.42 per cent (Table 2.10). Sex-wise classification of workers engaged in household industries indicates that the proportion of female main workers classified in this category is recorded a little more in both thedistricts as well as in the states average compared to the male workers. But the average of the hill region, the proportion of female workers in this category is lower than the proportion of male mainworkers. The main workers categoried as other workers are 25 per cent in Chamoli and 24.20 per cent in district Pithoragarh which is comparatively lower figure than the average of Hill region, being 34.6 per cent. The state's figure of workers classified as other workers is by and large equal to the figures of districts. There has been marked variation in the proportion of main workers classified as other workers between male and female workers in the districts of Hill region. The percentage of male workers counted as other workers is 44.8 in district Chamoli and 40.9 in Pithoragarh while the proportion of other workers in female mainworkers is 2.6 per cent in district Chamoli and 2.9 per cent in Pithoragarh. However, the proportions of other workers in both the sexes are higher in the Hill region as compared to the districts. Taking state as a whole, the proportion of other workers in the total female main workers

is significantly higher than the corresponding figures of district Chamoli and Pithoragarh as well as the region (Table 2.10).

2.8 Land Use and Agriculture

Of the total reporting area, the forest area constitutes 61.90 per cent in district Chamoli and 51.84 per cent in district Pithoragarh, as against 63.91 per cent in the total Hill region. While only 17.33 per cent area is covered with forests in the state as a whole. The net area under cultivation is 46.4 thousand hectares in district Chamoli and 68.4 thousand hectares in district Pithoragarh, constituting 9.65 per cent and 10.74 per cent of their total reporting area. When the Hill region is taken as a whole, it is found that about 11.83 per cent of the reporting area is put under cultivation purpose as against 38.06 per cent in the state (Table 2.11). The total gross cropped area is 72.5 thousand hectares in district Chamoli and 122.7 thousand hectares in Pithoragarh. The proportion of area sown more than once is comparatively higher in district Pithoragarh than district Chamoli. The cropping intensity is 156.4 in district Chamoli and 179 in Pithoragarh. However, the cropping intensity is recorded higher (164.3) in the Hill region as compared to the average figure for the state (147.3). Most of the cultivated area in both the district is unirrigated and the irrigated area constitutes merely 2.5 per cent in district Chamoli and

6.6 per cent in district Pithoragarh. The corresponding figure is 20.93 per cent in the Hill region and 43.36 per cent in the state as a whole (Table 2.11).

The rural people in both the districts who hold and operate land for agricultural purposes have, by and large, marginal and small operational holdings, with an average size of 0.63 hectare in district Chamoli and 0.58 hectare in Pithoragarh. The average size of land holding is 0.95 hectare in the state as well as inthe Hill region. The total number of marginal and small holdings constitutes 92.7 per cent in district Chamoli and 95.5 per cent in Pithoragarh of their respective total number of holdings. These figures are above the state average and region's average. The proportion of total area under marginal and small holdings tothe total operated area is 63.2 per cent in district Chamoli and 75.1 per cent in Pithoragarh. However, the proportion of area under marginal and small holdings is substantially lower in the region as well as in the state as compared to both the districts. Growing of Commercial crops is one of the indicators of agricultural development. In the hill areas, due to lack of irrigation facilities, the commercial crops are grown marginally. So in both the districts, the commercial crops are grown in limited areas and confined to the areas where irrigation facilities exist. Of the total area under cultivation, the commercial crops are grown in 10.85 per cent and 7.64 per cent areas in district Chamoli and Pithoragarh respectively, whereas the averge area under

commercial crops is 14.20 per cent in whole of the Hill region and 19.25 per cent in the state (Table 2.11). To a great extent, the level of agricultural production and the proportion of area under commercial crops depend on the use of modern inputs, i.e. irrigation and fertilizer, in agriculture. The consumption of chemical fertilizer is also extremely low in both the districts. Perhaps this is due to lack of irrigation facilities in these areas. The per hectare use of fertilizer is 6.9 Kgs. in district Chamoli and 4.7 Kgs. in Pithoragarh, while the average consumption of fertilizer per hectare is 73.1 kgs. in the hill region amd 88.7 kgs. in the state as a whole. The fertilizer use in the Hill region is accounted very high, because of the high doses of fertilizer applied by the farmers in the tarai belt of district Nainital and Dehradun. The agricultural sector of both the districts appears to be undeveloped as some of the indicators of development in terms of productivity and input indicate. The per hectare average yield of agricultural production is also low in both the districts of Chamoliand Pithoragarh. The average yield of foodgrains is about 12 quintals per hectare in both the districts as against the average yield of 14.2 quintals in the Hill region and 19.25 quintals in the state as a whole (Table 2.11). The use of electricity for agricultural purposes is also low in these districts as compared to the average of the state. The proportion of electricity consumption in agriculture to total consumption of electricity is 12.83 per cent in district Chamoli and 1.17 per cent in Pithoragarh, while more than 34

Table 2.11 : Land Use and Agricultural Pattern in Districts Chamoli and Pithoragarh

Description	Chamoli	Pitho-ragarh	U.P. Hills	U.P.
Total Reporting Area (1990-91):				
Area in Hectare	840704	637139	5958595	29793172
Area in Sq. Km.	9168	8856	51125	294411
Area under forest (1990-91)				
In '000 Hectare	520.4	330.3	3424.9	5162.6
In Percentage	61.90	51.84	63.91	17.33
Net Area sown (1991-92)				
In '000 Hectare	46.4	68.4	669.1	17299.3
Area sown more than once				
In '000 hectare	26.1	54.3	430.2	8180.5
Gross cropped area (in '000 ha)	72.5	122.7	1099.3	25479.8
Net irrigated Area (1991-92)				
In '000 hectare	2.5	6.6	224.2	11048.0
In Percentage	3.45	5.38	20.39	43.36
Gross Irrigated Area (in '000 ha)	4.8	9.7	373.3	14771.2
Average size of land holding				
In hectare	0.63	0.58	0.95	0.95
% of total number of holdings under marginal and small holdings (1985-86)	92.70	95.50	86.90	86.20
% of Total operated area under marginal and small holdings (1985-86)	63.20	75.10	49.90	51.60
% of Area Under Commercial Crops in total area under cultivation (1985-86)	10.85	7.64	14.20	19.25
Intensity of cropping	156.40	179.40	164.30	147.30
Per Hectare Use of Fertilizer (Kgs.)	6.9	4.7	73.1	88.7

Table 2.11 (contd....)

Description	Chamoli	Pitho-ragarh	U.P. Hills	U.P.
Percentage of Electricity Consumption in Agriculture to Total Consumption of Electricity	12.83	1.17	11.90	34.28
Per hectare Average Yield of Foodgrains (in qtls.) (1989-90)	12.1	12.2	16.0	17.4
Per capita Agricultural Produce (Kgs.)(1989-90)	196	313	285	255
Gross Value of Agricultural Produce (in Rs.) 1989-90:				
a) Per ha. Net Area sown at 1980-81 prices	4899	6241	6364	6118
b) Per capita (Rural) at 1980-81 prices	551	821	924	988
Share of primary sector to total Net Domestic Produce at current rate (1988-89)	92.6	91.8	84.5	77.4

Source : 1. Statistical Diary, U.P., 1993, Economics and Statistics Department, State Planning Institute, Lucknow;

2. Statistical Diary, Uttaranchal, State Planning Institute, Lucknow.

per cent of the total consumption of electricity is consumed by agriculture in the state. Similarly, the quantity of per capita agricultural produce in these districts is lower than the average of the state. The gross value of agricultural produce (at 1980-81 prices) per hectare of net area sown is Rs.4899 in district Chamoli and Rs.6241 in district Pithoragarh. The corresponding figure for the hill region is

Rs.6364 and for the state is Rs.6118. Per capita gross value of agricultural produce in these districts is comparatively lower than the average of the state. The secondary and tertiary sectors are under developed and about 92 per cent of the total net domestic produced is contributed by the primary sector in both the districts while the share of primary sector to total net domestic produce is 84.5 per cent in the Hill region and 77.4 per cent in the state as a whole (Table 2.11).

2.9 Animal Husbandry and Livestock

Animal husbandry is an allied agricultural activity which is not only a source of employment and income in the rural areas but also a part of wealth and assets of the households. The quality of livestock plays an important role in determining the level of income from the animal husbandry. Though the number of livestock is substantially higher in the hill districts of the state compared to other districts, but due to poor quality of animals, the income from livestock is generally below the average of the state. The number of livestock per thousand of population is 1095 in district Chamoli and 1114 in Pithoragarh as against 698 in the Hill region and 461 in the state as a whole. The number of milch animals per thousand of population is also substantially higher in both the districts than the average of the state

(Table 2.12), being 132 in district Chamoli and 184 in Pithoragarh. However, the average figure of milch animal per thousand of population is 69 in the state and 115 in the region.

Lack of veterinary hospitals in the rural areas is one of the main factors for underdevelopment of animal husbandry in the state. On an average, one veterinary hospital is shared by 16899 livestock in district Chamoli and 18673 in district Pithoragarh as against one vetarinary hospital for 35244 livestock in the whole state (Table 2.12). Similarly, one livestock Development Centre has to look after 9062 livestock in district Chamoli and 7511 livestock in district Pithoragarh. The average figures of livestock is 7228 in the region and 35244 in the state which have to share one Livestock Development Centre. Considering the magnitude of the milch animals, it seems that the number of milk collection centres are not adequate in the Hill region as well as in the state. The number of milk collection centres, per lakh of milch animals are 1.50 in district Chamoli and 0.99 in Pithoragarh as against 1.22 in the Hill region and 0.58 in the state as a whole. As far as the number of poultry is concerned, the position of Hill region is better than the position of both the districts as well as the state. However, the number of poultry, per thousand of population is 81 in the state which is above the average of both the districts. Rearing of goats and sheep is common practice in the hill districts of the state as data on animal husbandry

Table 2.12 : Some Development Indicators of Animal Husbandry in Districts Chamoli and Pithoragarh

Description	Chamoli	Pitho-ragarh	U.P. Hills	U.P.
No. of Livestock per thousand of population (1989-90)	1095	1114	698	461
No. of Milch Animals per thousand of population	132	184	115	69
No. of Livestock per Veterinary hospital (1990-91)	16899	18673	16946	35244
No. of Livestock per Livestock Development Centre (1990-91)	9062	7511	7228	20778
No. of Milk collection centres, per lakh of milch Animals (199091)	1.50	0.99	1.22	0.58
No. of Poultry per thousand of population (1988)	23.76	52.26	187.13	81.04
NO. of Goats per thousand of population	209.83	243.76	153.26	100.33
No. of Sheep per thousand of population	194.03	92.56	59.83	19.39

Source : 1. Statistical Diary, U.P., 1993, Economics and Statistics Department, State Planning Institute, Lucknow;

2. Statistical Diary, Uttaranchal, State Planning Institute, Lucknow, 1993

indicate. The ratio of goats and sheep with population in the hill region shows that the number of goats as well as sheep per thousand population is substantially higher in hill

districts compared to the state's average figure of goats and sheeps. The number of goats per thousand of population is about 210 in district Chamoli and 244 in district Pithoragarh while the corresponding figure for the hill region and the state is 153 and 100 respectively (Table 2.12). The number of sheep per thousand of population is also higher in the hill districts than the state.

2.10 Infrastructural Facilities

The level of basic infrastructural facilities related to transport, communication, health, education, finance and other welfare measures and the accessibility of the people to them are essential conditions for development. The means of transport, like road and rail are important components of social overhead capital which facilitates the movements of labour, capital and commodity. The length of road per 1000 sq. kms. of the geographical area is 142 kms. in district Chamoli and 146 kms. in Pithoragarh as against 224 kms. in the Hill region and 256 kms. in the state (Table 2.13). When the length of road is calculated in accordance with population it is found that the length of road per lakh of population is higher in both the districts than the average length of road in the region as well as in the state. This is due to low density of population in the hill districts. As far as railway line is concerned, no possibility for such connection exists. Telegraph, telephone and post offices are also important public utilities which are basic

components in the communication system. The number of telegraph offices per lakh of population is 10.00 in district Chamoli and 14.1 in Pithoragarh, while on an average 4.4 telegraph offices are shared by one lakh of population in the state. The number of post offices per lakh of population is substantially higher in both the districts as compared to the state, being 76.4 in district Chamoli, 69.8 in Pithoragarh and 14.2 in the state. The telephone connections, per lakh of population are lesser in number in districts Chamoli and Pithoragarh than the average figures of telephone connections in the state.

The facilities for education and medical care are another essential parts of the infrastructure. There are 207 junior basic schools, 46 senior basic schools, 28 higher secondary schools and 0.66 degree college per lakh of population in district Chamoli whereas in district Pithoragarh 189 junior basic schools, 36 senior basic schools, 21 higher secondary schools and 0.71 degree colleges are shared by one lakh of population (Table 2.13). By and large, the number of educational institutions, per lakh of population are higher in the hill districts as compared to the average of the state. So far as health and medical facilities are concerned, it is found that the district Chamoli has 14.24 allopathic hospitals/dispensaries and public health centres per lakh of population. In district Pithoragarh, the number of allopathic hospitals/dispensaries per lakh of population are 13.92. While the corresponding

figures for the hill region and the state are 12.41 and 3.35 respectively. The number of maternity-cum-child welfare centres per lakh of population is 33.33 in district Chamoli, and 36.89 in district Pithoragarh. While this figure is 27.24 for the hill region and 16.60 for the state (Table 2.13).

The infrastructural facilities related to banks and credit indicate that the number of commercial banks per lakh of population is 10.50 in district Chamoli, 11.20 in Pithoragarh and 11.40 in the hill region while the average figure for the state is 6.30. Similarly the number of primary agricultural credit societies per lakh of population is higher in both the districts as compared to the region as well as the state, being 18.77 in district Chamoli, 25.85 in Pithoragarh, 15.09 in Hill region and 7.74 in the state. However the facility of land development bank is by and large similar in both the districts as well as in the region and the state. The cooperative agricultural marketing centres are not established in both the districts. However, the agricultural marketing societies are functioning in the districts, but their numbers are lower than the average number of the region and the state. The number of agricultural marketing societies is 0.23 in district Chamoli and 0.36 in district Pithoragarh. Against this the average number of agricultural marketing societies per lakh of population is 0.56 in the hill region and 0.99 in the state (Table 2.13). Cold storages do not exist in both districts

Table 2.13 : Level of Infrastructural Development in Districts Chamoli and Pithoragarh

Description	Chamoli	Pitho-ragarh	U.P. Hills	U.P.
Length of road per 1000 sq. kms. of aggregational area (Kms. - 1989-90)	142	146	228	256
Length of Road per lakh of population (kms. - 1991-92)	294	226	195	56
No. of Telegraph Offices per lakh of Population (1989-90)	10.0	14.1	11.1	4.4
No. of Post Offices per lakh of Population (1989-90)	76.4	69.8	42.3	14.2
No.of Telephone connections per lakh of population (1989-90)	144	148	373	218
No. of Educational Institutions per lakh of population (1992-92):				
a) Junior Basic Schools	207	189	144	56
b) Senior Basic Schools	46	36	30	11
c) Higher Secondary Schools	28	21	19	4
d) Degree Colleges	0.66	0.71	0.55	--
No. of Allopathic hospitals/ dispensaries/PHCs per lakh of population (1990-91)	14.24	13.92	12.41	3.35
No. of Maternity-cum-child welfare centres per lakh of population (1989-90)	33.33	36.89	27.24	16.60
No.of Primary Health Centres per lakh of population (1989-90)	3.94	4.88	3.51	2.14
No. of Commercial Banks per lakh of population (1991-92)	10.50	11.20	11.40	6.30
No. of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies per lakh of population (1990-91)	18.77	25.85	15.09	7.74

Table 2.13 (contd...)

Description	Chamoli	Pitho-ragarh	U.P. Hills	U.P.
No. of Land Development Bank per lakh of population (1990-91)	0.23	0.18	0.22	0.20
No. of Cooperative Agricultural Marketing Centres per lakh of hectares of net area sown	-	-	18.72	16.65
No. of Agricultural Marketing Societies per lakh of population	0.23	0.36	0.56	0.99
No. of Cold Storage per 1000 sq. kms. (1990-91) Area	-	-	0.02	0.30
Per capita consumption of Electricity (Kwh) (1989-90)	45.4	54.3	199.4	174.0
Percentage of Villages electrified (1991-92)	69.90	60.90	73.55	74.85

Source : 1. Statistical Diary, U.P., 1993, Economics and Statistics Department, State Planning Institute, Lucknow;

2. Statistical Diary, Uttaranchal, State Planning Institute, Lucknow.

Chamoli and Pithoragarh. The percentage of villages electrified in both the districts are lower than the proportion of villages electrified in the region and the state. The percentages of villages electrified is 69.90 in district Chamoli, 60.90 in district Pithoragarh, 73.55 in the Hill region and 74.85 in the state. The per capita consumption of electricity is extremely low in districts

Chamoli and Pithoragarh, being 45.4 kwh. and 54.3 kwh respectively. Whereas the average figures of per capita consumption of electricity are 199.4 kwh in the hill region and 174.0 kwh in the state (Table 2.13).

2.11 Industrial Enterprises and Development

According to the economic census of Uttar Pradesh, district Chamoli and Pithoragarh have 16610 and 16233 enterprises respectively, constituting 9.32 per cent and 9.14 per cent in the total number of enterprises (177526) in the hill region. Majority (about 92 per cent) of them are non-agricultural establishments. The total number of enterprises in both the districts constitutes merely 1.25 per cent to the total number of enterprises in the state (Table 2.14). By and large, most of the enterprises in these districts are small in size in which, the entrepreneurs themselves are working and the share of such enterprises is accounted 72.30 per cent in the district Chamoli, 70.87 per cent in Pithoragarh, 66.34 per cent in the hill region and 74.31 per cent inthe state. Over all, the number of workers per enterprise is 1.95 in district Chamoli and 1.94 in Pithoragarh, while the average number of workers per enterprise is 2.78 in the Hill region and 2.62 in the state as a whole (Table 2.14). In the case of establishments having hired workers, it is found that the number of hired workers per establishment is registered lower in both the

Table 2.14 : Pattern and Structure of Industrial Enterprises in Districts Chamoli and Pithoragarh

Description	Chamoli	Pitho-ragarh	U.P. Hills	U.P.
No. of Enterprises/ Establishments (1990)	16611	16233	177526	2633032
a) Agriculture Based	493	486	3866	87066
b) Non-Agricultural	16117	15747	173660	2545966
No. of Establishments with (1990):				
a) One or more than one paid workers (hired)	4601	4726	59756	676456
b) Self Employed	12009	11507	117770	1956576
No. of totalworkers (1990)	32361	31288	494623	6908812
a) Paid Workers (Hired)	17387	17513	321699	3418512
b) Self Employed	14974	13775	172924	3490300
No. of registered factories under Factory Act 1948 (1987-88)	-	4	461	7498
No. of workers in registered factories under Factory Act 1948 (1987-88)	-	389	28594	613006
Total Value of production of registered factories under Factory Act 1948 (Rs. in Lakhs)	-	140	43511	1181200
Value of per factory production of the Factories under 1948 Act (Rs. in lakhs)	-	35.0	94.38	157.54
No. of Workers per registered factory (1987-88)	-	97	62	82
No. of Working Factories per lakh of population (1989-90)	-	0.71	7.78	5.39
No. of Workers in registered factories per lakh of population (1987-88)	-	69	482	440
Value of per capita industrial produce (Rs.) (1987-88)	-	38.40	994.64	1091.04

Source : 1. Statistical Diary, U.P., 1993, Economics and Statistics Department, State Planning Institute, Lucknow;
2. Statistical Diary, Uttaranchal, State Planning Institute, Lucknow.

districts as compared to the region as well as the state, being 3.79 workers per enterprises in district Chamoli, 3.71 in Pithoragarh, 5.38 in the hill region and 5.05 in the state.

Both the districts are backward as far as industrial development is concerned. Due to lack of infrastructural facilities in these districts, the pace of industrial development could not take place. In district Chamoli, there is not a single registered factory under Factory Act, 1948. However, the number of registered factories is 4 in district Pithoragarh which are registered under Factory Act, 1948. The registered factories established under Factory Act in district Pithoragarh constitute less than one per cent (0.86 per cent) to the total such factories in the hill region. The value of per factory production is Rs.35.00 lakhs in a year in district Pithoragarh as against the average value of per factory production of Rs.94.38 lakh in the Hill region and Rs.157.54 lakhs in the state (Table 2.14). However, the number of workers per registered factory is 97 in district Pithoragarth which is higher figure than the average figure for the region and the state. The number of working factories per lakh of population is 0.71 in district Pithoragarh as against this, there are 7.78 factories in every one lakh of population in Hill region and 5.39 in the state. Similarly, the number of workers in registered factories per lakh of population is substantially lower in

district Pithoragarh than the average of the region and the state, being 69 workers, per lakh of population in district Pithoragarh, 482 in the hill region and 440 in the state as a whole. The value of per capita industrial produce is Rs.38.40 in district Pithoragarh, registering substantially lower than the value of Rs.994.64 inthe Hill region and Rs.1091.04 in the state (Table 2.14). The number of working industrial units are 1124 in district Pithoragarh and 2556 in district Chamoli. These units are of Khadi industry, engineering industry, handloom industry and processing industry.

CHAPTER III

SALIENT FEATURES OF RESPONDENTS AND THEIR HOUSEHOLDS

3.1 Demographic Features

As has already been pointed out for the purpose of this study some 340 women have been surveyed in eight villages selected from both the sample districts of Chamoli and Pithoragarh in the Hill region of Uttar Pradesh. The main objective of this chapter is two-fold : (i) to comprehend the socio-economic features of households, in terms of population, family size, education, workforce, occupation, landholding, housing, animal husbandry and income levels; and (ii) to portray the main characteristics of the women respondents such as age-group, educational level and social groups. Table 3.1 presents the demographic structure of the households of the women in the sample. The families of 340 women (respondents) in the sample had a population of 1618, the average size of family being 4.76 in aggregate, with a variation ranging from 4.35 in village Panneygaon of Chamoli district to 5.25 in village Chaura Rajpur in district

Pithoragarh. Taking all the sample households together, the sex-ratio was found 1005 females per 1000 males. However, the sex-ratio was recorded highest 1302 in village Devat of district Pithoragarh and lowest 738 in village Kharkarki also in district Pithorayarh.

Table 3.1 : Population, Sex Ratio and Size of the Families of the Respondents

Name of Village	No. of Respon-dents in the sample	No. of Male Popula-tion	No. of Female Popula-tion	Total Popu-lation	Sex Ratio	Average Size of the fa-mily
Panney Gaon	40	80	94	174	1175	4.35
Bara Gaon	40	87	91	178	1046	4.45
Lasngasu	40	91	103	194	1132	4.85
Jhirkoti	40	100	107	207	1070	5.17
Chaura Rajpur	45	123	112	235	911	5.22
Kharkarki	45	126	93	219	738	4.87
Devat	45	86	112	198	1302	4.40
Chhana	45	114	99	213	868	4.73
All Villages	340	807	811	1618	1005	4.76

Data regarding the distribution of population in the sample households according to different age-groups is presented in Table 3.2 which indicates that about 11.74 per cent of the population was less than 5 years of age and about

4 per cent was above 60 years. The workforce (age-group 19-59 years) in the sample households constituted 47.47 per cent in the total population. The proportion of population in this age group varied from 39.13 per cent in village Jhirkoti to 52.80 per cent in Bara Gaon. The age of 21.45 per cent population in the sample households was recorded between 6 to 12 years and 15.33 per cent in the age group of 13-19 years. Table 3.2 also indicates the variation in the proportion of population above 60 years among the sample villages. In village Kharkarki, the population above 60 years constituted less than one per cent, while this figure was 7.22 per cent in village Langasu.

Table 3.2 : Distribution of Population in the Households According to Different Age Groups

Name of village	Age-Groups (Years)					
	Less than 5 yrs	6-12	13-18	19-59	Above 60 yrs	Total
Panney Gaon	12.07	18.39	16.09	50.00	3.45	174(100.0)
Bara Gaon	8.43	17.42	19.10	52.80	2.25	178(100.0)
Lasngasu	13.40	21.13	14.44	43.81	7.22	194(100.0)
Jhirkoti	7.25	27.54	22.22	39.13	3.86	207(100.0)
Chaura Rajpur	13.62	23.40	10.64	48.51	3.83	235(100.0)
Kharkarki	12.79	21.92	13.24	51.14	0.91	219(100.0)
Devat	11.62	22.22	16.16	44.95	5.05	198(100.0)
Chhana	14.08	18.31	12.21	49.77	5.63	213(100.0)
All Villages	11.74	21.45	15.33	47.47	4.01	1618(100.0)

3.2 Educational Level

The educational level of the population in the sample households has been presented in Table 3.3. The analysis of data regarding the education of the family members of the sample households revealed that 30.35 per cent of the total population was illiterate. The illiterate population was lowest 20.71 per cent in village Devat and highest 42.55 per cent in village Chaura Rajpur. The population whose educational level was upto primary standard constituted 31.40

Table 3.3 : Educational Level of Population in the Sample Households

Name of Village	Percentage Distribution of the population According to Education						
	Illi-terate	Pri-mary	Junior High School	High School	Inter-mediate	Gradu-ate	Total Popu-lation
Panney Gaon	33.33	33.91	18.40	11.49	1.72	1.15	174(100)
Bara Gaon	24.16	35.30	20.22	12.36	3.93	3.93	178(100)
Lasngasu	28.87	30.41	14.95	12.89	8.76	4.12	194(100)
Jhirkoti	21.26	31.40	22.22	16.43	6.28	2.41	207(100)
Chaura Rajpur	42.55	22.83	16.17	6.81	1.70	1.28	235(100)
Kharkarki	36.99	36.87	23.74	12.33	3.20	0.91	219(100)
Devat	20.71	30.52	16.16	20.71	4.54	1.01	198(100)
Chhana	31.92	31.40	18.31	11.74	3.29	4.22	213(100)
All Villages	30.35	31.40	18.79	12.97	4.14	2.35	1618(100)

per cent in the total population. Table 3.3 shows that the persons who were educated upto Junior High School and High School recorded 18.79 per cent and 12.97 per cent respectively. The education of 4.14 per cent population was Intermediate and 2.35 per cent were Graduate and above in the sample households.

The educational level of female population has been worked out separately. Table 3.4 reveals that the illiterates among female population were 43.52 per cent in the sample households. However, among males 17.62 per cent

Table 3.4 : Educational Level of Female Population in the Sample Households

Name of Village	Percentage Distribution of the Female population According to Education						
	Illi-terate	Pri-mary	Junior High School	High School	Inter-mediate	Gradu-ate	Total Popu-lation
Panney Gaon	48.19	36.14	12.05	2.41	-	1.21	100.00
Bara Gaon	35.10	41.67	9.52	10.71	-	-	100.00
Lasngasu	40.78	31.07	17.48	4.85	4.85	0.97	100.00
Jhirkoti	34.58	31.78	18.69	8.41	3.74	2.80	100.00
Chaura Rajpur	63.39	30.37	4.46	0.89	0.89	-	100.00
Kharkarki	54.17	33.33	6.25	5.21	1.04	-	100.00
Devat	26.13	46.85	14.41	9.91	1.80	0.90	100.00
Chhana	43.43	37.38	11.11	3.03	3.03	2.02	100.00
All Villages	43.52	35.97	11.82	5.67	2.01	1.01	100.00

were illiterates. The illiterates among females was highest 63.39 per cent in village Chaura Rajpur and lowest 26.13 per cent in village Devat. Data presented in Table 3.4 shows that the educational levels of 35.97 per cent females was of primary standard. Those who were educated upto Junior High School constituted 11.82 per cent in the total female population in aggregate with variations in the sample villages. The education of 5.67 per cent females was High School and 2.01 per cent were Intermediate. Some of the female population were Graduates in the sample households and their percentage was 1.01 in the total population.

3.3 Housing Structure

Data regarding the housing structure of the sample households presented in Table 3.5 reveals that about 90 per cent houses were pucca which were made of cement, stones, bricks and wood. Rest of the houses were either semi-pucca or kuchha. All the houses of the respondents in village Chaura Rajpur were pucca in nature while in village Langasu, about 80 per cent houses were pucca. The analysis of data regarding accommodation in the sample households reveals that the number of rooms were not sufficient for family members. It is found that about 3.06 rooms are shared by a family of 4.76 members in the sample households and the accommodation was not sufficient in 53.8 per cent cases as reported by the

respondents. A significant variation has been observed in the proportion of respondents reporting insufficient accommodation in the sample villages. The accommodation was not sufficient in 75.4 per cent cases in village Devat while 32.5 per cent respondents in village Baragaon felt lack of space for accommodation. It was observed that in most of the cases there were no separate kitchens in the houses, instead a room was utilized for kitchen purpose also. About 60.3 per cent respondents reported that they had no separate kitchens in their houses. Variations were also found in the proportion of households in the sample villages who had provision of separate kitchens and it varied from 28.8 per cent in village Devat to 57.8 per cent in village Chaura Rajpur. The facility of bathroom and lavatory within the house premises was found in merely 8.2 per cent households in the total sample. In the villages like Baragaon in district Chamoli and Devat in district Pithoragarh, there were no facility of bathroom and lavatory within the residential premises. Though, all the sample villages in both the districts were electrified but all the households were not electrified. Taking all the sample households together, the houses of 55.3 per cent respondents had electricity connections. The provision of electricity in the houses varied from 40 per cent sample households in village Devat to 82.2 per cent in village Kharkarki.

Table 3.5 : Structure of Houses and Accommodation

Name of Village	No.of house-holds in the sample	Nature of House		No. of room	Whether separate kitchen		Facility of bath-room and latrine		Houses are electri-fied		Accommo-dation is sufficient	
		Pu-cca	Mix-ed/ Kucha		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Panney Gaon	40	82.5	17.5	144	45.0	55.0	15.0	85.0	45.0	55.0	52.5	47.5
Bara Gaon	40	92.5	7.5	142	40.0	60.0	-	100.0	45.0	55.0	67.5	32.5
Lasngasu	40	80.0	10.0	156	37.5	62.5	12.5	87.5	45.0	55.0	62.5	37.5
Jhirkoti	40	85.0	15.0	182	40.0	60.0	20.0	80.0	55.0	45.0	62.5	37.5
Chaura Rajpur	45	100.0	-	115	57.8	42.2	4.4	95.6	62.2	37.8	42.2	57.8
Kharkarki	45	95.5	4.5	82	33.3	66.4	13.3	86.7	82.2	17.8	28.8	71.2
Devat	45	91.0	9.0	108	28.8	71.2	-	100.0	40.0	60.0	24.4	75.6
Chhana	45	88.8	11.2	111	35.5	64.5	2.2	97.8	64.4	35.6	35.6	64.4
All Villages	340	89.7	10.3	1040	39.7	60.3	8.2	91.8	55.3	44.7	46.2	53.8

Selection of households and respondents was made from all the social groups in the selected villages. The compositon of social groups in the sample indicated that 77.35 per cent of the respondents were from General caste, 20.29 per cent from Scheduled Caste, 2.06 per cent from Scheduled Tribe and 0.30 per cent from Backward caste. As far as sex of households is concerned, it was found that 72.94 per cent households were headed by male members and in the rest of 27.06 per cent cases, the female members were heading the households.

3.4 Livestock Pattern and Land Holdings

Data pertaining to livestock pattern in the sample households indicated that the number of livestock per household was 3.94 in aggregate with differentials in the sample villages. In village Baragaon, per family of 4.45 members has to look after eight animals, whereas in village Langasu, per family (4.48 members) the number of livestock was 2.45. It is a general practice in the rural households of Hill region that atleast a pair of bullocks is kept in the households irrespective of size of land holdings. In some case, it is not viable to keep bullocks in small holdings. In the Hill region, the burden of work related to animal husbandry is generally on the shoulders of females and the responsibility of feeding, maintaining, milching and grazing them is taken by female members in the households. Livestock contributes significantly in the household assets composition of the rural households. Table 3.6 shows that the per household value of livestock was accounted Rs.8848 in the sample households. In the individual sample villages, the per household value of livestock was highest Rs.12795 in village Baragaon and it was lowest Rs.5887 in village Langasu.

Information about the agricultural land holdings in the sample households was also collected. Data in this regard revealed that the average size of land holding was recorded

Table 3.6 : Pattern of Livestock in Sample Households

Name of Village	No.of Respo-dents in the sample	Total No.of live-stock in the HH	Total Value of li-vestock (Rs.)	Per Family No. of livestock	Per HH Value of live-stock (Rs.)	Average Value of per live stock (Rs.)
Panney Gaon	40	131	310400	3.27	7760	2369
Bara Gaon	40	240	511800	6.00	12795	2133
Lasngasu	40	98	235500	2.45	5887	2403
Jhirkoti	40	154	348150	3.85	8704	2261
Chaura Rajpur	45	244	561170	5.42	12470	2300
Kharkarki	45	161	296100	3.58	6580	1839
Devat	45	142	306250	3.16	6806	2157
Chhana	45	169	439100	3.75	9758	2598
All Villages	340	1339	3008470	3.94	8848	2247

1.18 acres per household with a wide variations in the sample villages. The per household average size of land holding was highest 2.73 acres in village Chaura Rajpur and lowest 0.35 acre in village Chhana.

3.5 Occupation of Work Force

Taking all the sample households together, the number of working population engaged in different activities was 769, registering 47.52 per cent of the total population. Table

3.7 shows the occupational distribution of workers in the sample households. Due to lack of opportunities for gainful employment in non-agricultural sector, the rural labour-force has no other option but to fall back on agriculture. Out of total workers in the sample households 75.42 per cent were working as cultivators and this proportion varied from 65.22

Table 3.7 : Primary Occupation of the Working Force in the Sample Households

Name of Village	Occupational Distribution of Workers in the Sample HH								
	Cultivators	Agrl. Labourer	Animal Husbandry	Wage Earners	Rural Craft & Industry	Service	Business	Others	Total
Panney Gaon	72 (82.75)	–	–	5 (5.75)	1 (1.15)	1 (1.15)	5 (5.75)	3 (3.45)	87 (100.0)
Bara Gaon	75 (82.42)	–	–	5 (5.49)	–	3 (3.30)	8 (8.79)	–	91 (100.0)
Langasu	61 (71.76)	5 (5.88)	–	9 (10.59)	–	5 (5.88)	4 (4.71)	1 (1.18)	85 (100.0)
Jhirkoti	57 (75.00)	2 (2.63)	1 (1.32)	1 (1.32)	–	8 (10.52)	5 (6.58)	2 (2.63)	76 (100.0)
Chaura Rajpur	92 (80.00)	–	1 (0.87)	13 (11.30)	1 (0.87)	3 (2.61)	3 (2.61)	2 (1.74)	115 (100.0)
Kharkarki	78 (72.90)	1 (0.93)	–	3 (2.81)	–	16 (14.95)	8 (7.87)	1 (0.93)	107 (100.0)
Devat	60 (65.22)	1 (1.09)	1 (1.09)	4 (4.34)	1 (1.09)	15 (16.30)	2 (2.17)	8 (8.70)	92 (100.0)
Chhana	85 (73.28)	2 (1.72)	–	12 (10.34)	–	14 (12.07)	2 (1.72)	1 (0.86)	116 (100.0)
All Villages	580 (75.42)	11 (1.43)	3 (0.39)	52 (6.76)	3 (0.39)	65 (8.45)	37 (4.82)	18 (2.34)	769 (100.0)

per cent in village Devat to 82.75 per cent in village Panney Gaon. Some of the workers were employed in service either in Government or non-government jobs in urban or semi-urban areas near the villages and they constituted 8.45 per cent in the total working force. The percentage of workers engaged in service sector was higher in those villages which are nearer to urban or town areas. Village Devat in our sample is situated near the district headquarter Pithoragarh as a result the percentage of workers in service was highest (16.30 per cent). Another 6.76 per cent workers were wage earners in non-agricultural sector. Table 3.7 highlights that the business was the fourth major occupation in which 4.82 per cent workers were engaged. About 1.43 per cent workers were agricultural labourers. Household industries are not developed in the sample villages and hardly 0.39 per cent workers had this occupation.

3.6 Household Income

Data regarding household income from different sources were collected from the respondents to know their economic conditions. The data of household income have been analysed in Table 3.8 which indicates that per household annual income from all sources is recorded Rs.16498 with wide variations in the sample villages. The per household annual income is found lowest Rs.11182 in village Panney Gaon while it was

highest Rs.21487 in village Chaura Rajpur. Per capita income in the sample households is recorded Rs.3467. In village Kharkarki, the per capita income was Rs.4346 which was highest in the sample villages. On the other hand, the per capita income was lowest Rs.2539 in village Jhirkoti. The analysis revealed that the per household as well as per capita income was higher in sample villages of district Pithoragarh as compared to district Chamoli.

Table 3.8 : Annual Income of the Households of the Respondents

Name of Village	No.of Respo-dents in the sample	Total Popula-tion of the HH	Total Yearly Income (Rs.)	Per HH Annual Income (Rs.)	Per Capita Income (Rs.)
Panney Gaon	40	174	447300	11182	2571
Bara Gaon	40	178	734700	18367	4127
Langasu	40	194	492560	12314	2539
Jhirkoti	40	207	589000	14725	2845
Chaura Rajpur	45	235	966900	21487	4114
Kharkarki	45	219	951740	21150	4346
Devat	45	198	774350	17208	3911
Chhana	45	213	652700	14504	3064
All Villages	340	1618	5609250	16498	3467

Table 3.9 presents the data of the household income from different sources. It revealed that agriculture was the major source of household income in the sample households. Agriculture contributes more than 37 per cent of the total household income. Differentials have been found in the share of agriculture in the total household income in the sample villages. In village Devat, about 15.63 per cent households income is generated from agriculture, whereas agriculture contributes more than 67.76 per cent income to households in village Baragaon. The second major source of household income was the service which generates 20.20 per cent income of the sample households. In the individual sample villages, service has been the first major source of households income in village Kharkarki and Devat accounting 43.37 per cent and 38.51 per cent of the household income in the respective sample villages. It is general practice that outmigration of able-bodied from the rural areas of the hill region takes place at high rate for employment and income. The migrants usually send remittances from the workplace to the family members at a regular intervels. Some of the researchers call the hill economy as 'money-order' economy. Our survey data also revealed that about 18 per cent of the aggregate household income is earned from remittances. A wide variation has been recorded in the share of remittances to the total household income inthe sample villages. In village like Jhirkoti, the contribution of remittances was as high as 52.56 per cent in the total income of the sample households.

Table 3.9 : Source of Household Annual Income in the Sample Households

Name of Village	Sources of Household Annual Income (Rs.)								
	Agri-culture	Animal Husbandry	Trade and Business	Service	Craft/ Wages	Pension	Remittances	Others	Total
Panney Gaon	157400 (35.19)	56300 (12.59)	55400 (12.39)	28800 (6.44)	12000 (2.68)	12000 (2.68)	125400 (28.03)	-	447300 (100.0)
Bara Gaon	497800 (67.76)	31000 (4.22)	84500 (11.50)	31000 (4.22)	16200 (2.20)	-	71200 (9.69)	3000 (0.41)	734700 (100.0)
Langasu	111100 (22.56)	2500 (0.51)	40400 (8.20)	103000 (20.91)	27460 (5.57)	50000 (10.15)	143200 (29.07)	14900 (3.03)	492560 (100.0)
Jhirkoti	150000 (25.47)	5500 (0.94)	32800 (5.57)	58400 (9.92)	5100 (0.87)	27600 (4.67)	309600 (52.56)	-	589000 (100.0)
Chaura Rajpur	540900 (55.94)	54300 (5.62)	91500 (9.46)	73000 (7.55)	110800 (11.46)	22800 (2.36)	73600 (7.61)	-	966900 (100.0)
Kharkarki	315740 (33.17)	31200 (3.29)	35800 (3.76)	412800 (43.37)	27400 (2.89)	18400 (1.93)	37400 (3.93)	73000 (7.66)	951740 (100.0)
Devat	121050 (15.63)	26200 (3.38)	41500 (5.36)	298200 (38.51)	27600 (3.56)	91800 (11.86)	148000 (19.12)	20000 (2.58)	774350 (100.0)
Chhana	185400 (28.41)	12000 (1.84)	34000 (5.21)	128400 (19.67)	72700 (11.14)	127400 (19.51)	92800 (14.22)	-	652700 (100.0)
All	2079390 (37.08)	219000 (3.90)	415900 (7.42)	1133600 (20.20)	299260 (5.33)	350000 (6.23)	1001200 (17.86)	110900 (1.98)	5609250 (100.0)

On the other hand, nearly 3.93 per cent of the household income was shared by remittances in village Kharkarki. Animal husbandry and trade and business have also been the source of household income and these sources have generated 3.90 per cent and 7.42 per cent income respectively. Table 3.9 also shows the sources of income by crafts and pension, which

contributed 5.33 per cent and 6.23 per cent respectively in the total household income.

The households have also been classified according to different income-groups in Table 3.10. The analysis of data regarding household annual income indicates that about 40 per cent of the total households in the sample were below poverty line as their annual income was recorded less than Rs.11000. On the basis of price index for year 1991-92, the Government of India has revised the limit of poverty line as Rs.11,000 per household per annum. Looking at the figures of different income brackets in the sample villages, it is revealed that in village Langasu the households below poverty line were recorded highest 70.00 per cent while on the other hand, the households in village Chaura Rajpur were 17.17 per cent in this category. The income of 32.35 per cent households in the sample villages was between Rs.11001 to Rs.20000. In the individual sample villages, the proportion of households in this income bracket varied from 15.00 per cent in village Langasu to 51.11 per cent in village Chhana. Taking all the sample households together, merely 2.65 per cent households had their annual income more than Rs.50,000. However, in village Panney Gaon, there was not a single household in this category. Contrary, in village Kharkarki, about 6.67 per cent households had income more than Rs.50,000 per year. Another 15.29 per cent households were found in the income bracket of Rs.30001 to 50,000. The annual income of 15.29 per cent households was recorded between Rs.20,001 to 30,000.

Table 3.10 : Distribution of Households According to Different Income Groups

Name of Village	No. of Households in Different Income Groups (in Rs.)						
	Less than 5000	5001- 11000	11001- 20000	20001- 30000	30001- 50000	Above 50000	Total
Panney Gaon	9 (22.50)	15 (37.50)	11 (27.50)	2 (5.00)	3 (7.50)	-	40 (100.0)
Bara Gaon	2 (5.00)	8 (20.00)	12 (30.00)	14 (35.00)	3 (7.50)	1 (2.50)	40 (100.0)
Langasu	9 (22.50)	19 (47.50)	6 (15.00)	2 (5.00)	3 (7.50)	1 (2.50)	40 (100.0)
Jhirkoti	2 (5.00)	21 (52.50)	9 (22.50)	6 (15.00)	1 (2.50)	1 (2.50)	40 (100.0)
Chaura Rajpur	2 (4.44)	6 (13.33)	20 (44.45)	7 (15.56)	9 (20.00)	1 (2.22)	45 (100.0)
Kharkarki	2 (4.44)	10 (22.23)	15 (33.33)	6 (13.33)	9 (20.00)	3 (6.67)	45 (100.0)
Devat	1 (2.22)	14 (31.11)	14 (31.11)	13 (28.30)	2 (4.44)	1 (2.22)	45 (100.0)
Chhana	3 (6.67)	13 (28.89)	23 (51.11)	2 (4.44)	3 (6.67)	1 (2.22)	45 (100.0)
All Villages	30 (8.82)	106 (31.18)	110 (32.35)	52 (15.29)	33 (9.71)	9 (2.65)	340 (100.0)

Our major attention would be on examining the economic conditions of the womenfolk and the problem of drudgery associated with their work. This is the convenient departure point and we start our study with an examination of the age structure and educational level of women respondents.

3.7 Age of the Respondents

As already mentioned earlier that from each selected households, one woman (effective participant in workforce) had been interviewed and relevant information was collected. The age of the women (respondents) varied from 16 years to 56 years in the sample villages. The distribution of women (respondents) according to different age groups has been presented in Table 3.11. The analysis of data pertaining to age distribution of the respondents reveals that the age group of 21 to 35 years was the major group in which there were 47.65 per cent respondents. In the individual sample village, the proportion of respondents in this age group varied from 30.00 per cent in village Panney Gaon to 67.50 per cent in village Langasu. The second major group of respondents was 36 to 50 years which accounted 38.82 per cent in aggregate. However, variation has been found in the sample villages. The proportion of respondents in this age group was as high as 57.50 per cent in village Baragaon and as low as 25.00 per cent in village Langasu. The respondents who were above 50 years of age constituted 12.65 per cent in the total sample with differentials in their proportions in the sample villages. However, the age of any respondent was not above 56 years in the sample. Table 3.11 shows that the age of 0.88 per cent respondents was less than 20 years. But there was no respondent in five villages who were less than 20 years.

Table 3.11 : Distribution of the Respondents According to Different Age Groups

Name of the Village	Age-Group of the Respondents (Years)				
	Upto 20	21-35	36-50	Above 50	Total
Panney Gaon	–	12 (30.00)	19 (47.50)	9 (22.50)	40 (100.0)
Bara Gaon	–	15 (37.50)	23 (57.50)	2 (5.00)	40 (100.0)
Langasu	–	27 (67.50)	10 (25.00)	3 (7.50)	40 (100.0)
Jhirkoti	–	12 (30.00)	17 (42.50)	11 (27.50)	40 (100.0)
Chaura Rajpur	–	22 (48.88)	22 (48.88)	1 (2.23)	45 (100.0)
Kharkarki	1 (2.23)	27 (60.00)	12 (26.66)	5 (11.11)	45 (100.0)
Devat	1 (2.23)	27 (60.00)	14 (31.11)	3 (6.66)	45 (100.0)
Chhana	1 (2.23)	20 (44.44)	15 (33.33)	9 (20.00)	45 (100.0)
All Villages	3 (0.88)	162 (47.65)	132 (38.82)	43 (12.65)	340 (100.0)

3.8 Respondents and Their Education

When we look at the educational level of the women in the sample we find that over 58.00 per cent were illiterate and the education of 28.53 per cent women was upto primary level. Table 3.12 reveals that the respondents whose

Table 3.12 : Educational Level of the Women Respondents

Name of Village	Educational Level of The Respondents						
	Illiterate	Primary	Junior H.S.	High School	Intermediate	Graduate	Total
Panney Gaon	27 (67.50)	9 (22.50)	2 (5.00)	1 (2.50)	-	1 (2.50)	40 (100.0)
Bara Gaon	22 (55.00)	13 (32.50)	4 (10.00)	1 (2.50)	-	-	40 (100.0)
Langasu	17 (42.50)	11 (27.50)	8 (20.00)	1 (2.50)	2 (5.00)	1 (2.50)	40 (100.0)
Jhirkoti	31 (77.50)	4 (10.00)	2 (5.00)	2 (5.00)	1 (2.50)	-	45 (100.0)
Chaura Rajpur	30 (66.67)	13 (28.88)	2 (4.45)	-	-	-	45 (100.0)
Kharkarki	32 (71.11)	9 (20.00)	4 (8.89)	-	-	-	45 (100.0)
Devat	14 (31.11)	24 (53.33)	3 (6.67)	3 (6.67)	1 (2.22)	-	45 (100.0)
Chhana	27 (60.00)	14 (31.11)	2 (4.45)	-	1 (2.22)	1 (2.22)	45 (100.0)
All Villages	200 (58.33)	97 (28.53)	27 (7.94)	8 (2.35)	5 (1.47)	3 (0.88)	340 (100.0)

education was Junior High School constituted 7.94 per cent in the total sample. The education of another 2.35 per cent respondents was High School and 1.47 per cent was Intermediate. Taking all respondents together, it was found

that the educational level of 0.88 per cent respondent was graduate. A significant variation was found in the educational level of respondents in different villages. The proportion of illiterate respondents was found to be highest, i.e. 77.50 per cent in village Jhirkoti of Chamoli district and lowest 31.11 per cent in village Devat of Pithoragarh district. Table 3.12 shows that the educational level of the respondents was not beyond Junior High School in villages Chaura Rajpur and Kharkarki. There were three graduate respondents in the total sample and they were from village Panney Gaon, Langasu and Chhana.

CHAPTER IV

WORK PATTERN OF WOMEN AND THEIR ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS

In rural areas of the hill region, women equally share the bread earning responsibility of the family and work shoulder to shoulder with their menfolk in various agricultural and animal husbandry operations in day to day life. Women participation is found in almost all the rural occupations. Their role in agricultural operations is very significant and their contribution works out to more than three-fourth of the labour required for agricultural operations. Household activities are solely the concern of females. In the case of Hill region of U.P., the participation of women in household and non-household activities is comparatively higher than male workers and also to their other female counterparts in U.P. What explains this high work participation is attempted in the following pages.

4.1 Working Pattern and Hours of Daily Work

In this section of the chapter, an attempt has been made to analyse the working pattern of womenfolk in various

activities performed by them and the time devoted to each such activities. Women's role in agricultural operations is very significant in the hill economy. These women participate in almost all the agricultural operations viz. land preparation, manuring, sowing, transplanting, weeding, hoeing, applying fertilizers, taking care of crops from wild animals, harvesting, threshing, carrying the produce from farm to home, storage of foodgrains and so on. The success or failure of agricultural production depends largely on the contribution made by womenfolk as far as human labour is concerned since the participation of menfolk in agriculture is confined mainly to ploughing of land, irrigation and harvesting. The extent of participation of women at the farm is also governed by social and cultural variables. However, the social and cultural variables has a little impact on women in the hill region. Sharing of economic activities by women is neither a new phenomenon nor a new development. The women of hill region have to undergo a very hard life due to the geo-physical conditions of the region. The household activities performed by women consume the maximum time of the womenfolk. The major household activities mostly done by females in the hill region are rearing of children and old aged, cleaning utensils, washing clothes, cooking, milching cattle, arranging fodder for cattle, bringing water, collection of fodder and fuel, knitting, spinning, stitching new clothes, repair of old clothes as well as extending help in the marriage and religious ceremonies of neighbourers and

relatives. It is generally observed that work related to animal husbandry is solely carried out by females, however, in some cases, feeding and grazing of animals is done by male members also.

Information was collected from the respondents about the day to day work, household and non-household activities and time spent by womenfolk in each activity. For analaytical purpose, we have divided the activities performed by womenfolk into three categories, viz. (i) out-door activities; (ii) indoor activities; and (iii) activities of leisurely and recreational types. Outdoor activities are those activities which are performed outside the household and involve the maximum amount of physical work. These activities are related to agriculture and livestock operations and collection of fuel, fodder and water fetching. Indoor activities are confined to daily household work of routine nature. It includes kitchen work like cooking and washing of utensils, house cleaning, cloth washing, grinding and husking of corn and attending to work of children and aged persons who cannot do such work on their own. Compared to outdoor work, this work is less burden some in terms of physical stress yet it absorbs a substantial portion of daily time. The residue of the daily routine work is reserved for performing activities of leisurely and recreational type. These activities include, attending to religious and social work and activities like reading/writing and business and craft. These activities are both recreational and enjoyable

and may sometimes lead to an extra income creation for womenfolk. However, most of the time the women do not get the required time for such activities as they are busy elsewhere in household or non-household work.

Detailed analysis of different activities performed by womenfolk in the hill economy and time devoted towards each such activity is presented in Table 4.1. A fundamental conclusion emerges at the very outset that is, a hill woman devotes about 16.49 hours in a day for performing all such types of activities. In the individual sample districts, based on village-wise calculations a woman in district Chamoli had to spend 15.84 hours in a day while this figure was recorded about 17.08 hours in district Pithoragarh. The percentage ratio of work disposal according to outdoor, indoor and recreational activities is recorded to be 62.17 per cent, 21.11 per cent and 8.72 per cent respectively. This highlights the amount of physical labour that rural hill womenfolk have to perform in various activities. This work, in the absence of proper nutrition and health care is bound to create serious health repercussion for the mother and child and in fact it does. The outdoor activities are highly time consuming and about 10.25 hours out of a total daily routine work of 16.49 hours is absorbed towards its performance. In percentage terms this figure works out to 62.17 per cent of total disposal time as already mentioned earlier.

Table 4.1 : Disposal of Daily Time and Percentage Distribution of Work Disposal

Activities performed by Womenfolk	CHAMOLI			PITHORAGARH			TOTAL		
	Per day Total hours of work of all respondents	Per Woman per day hours of work	% age distribution of work disposal	Per day Total hours of work of all respondents	Per Woman per day hours of work	% age distribution of work disposal	Per day Total hours of work of all respondents	Per Woman per day hours of work	% age distribution of work disposal
A. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES									
Agriculture	647	4.05	25.57	750	4.16	24.36	1397	4.11	24.92
Animal Husbandry	110	0.69	4.36	139	0.77	4.51	249	0.73	4.43
Water fetching	213	1.33	8.40	270	1.50	8.78	483	1.42	8.61
Fodder Collection	280	1.75	11.05	385	2.14	12.53	666	1.96	11.88
Fuelwood collection	286	1.79	11.30	406	2.26	13.23	692	2.03	12.31
B. INDOOR ACTIVITIES									
Cooking	218	1.36	8.58	229	1.27	7.44	447	1.32	8.00
Washing Clothes	144	0.91	5.75	155	0.86	5.04	299	0.88	5.33
House cleaning	127	0.79	4.99	125	0.70	4.10	252	0.74	4.48
Grinding & Husking	202	1.26	7.93	208	1.16	6.79	410	1.21	7.34
Care of Children	88	0.55	3.47	134	0.74	4.33	222	0.65	3.93
C. LEISURELY & RECREATIONAL TYPE									
Craft and Business	14	0.09	0.52	20	0.11	0.70	34	0.10	0.60
Reading & Writing	22	0.14	0.88	38	0.21	1.23	60	0.18	1.09
Entertainment	10	0.06	0.38	7	0.04	0.23	17	0.05	0.30
Social Work	86	0.54	3.41	101	0.56	3.28	187	0.55	3.33
Religious Activities	87	0.54	3.41	107	0.59	3.45	194	0.57	3.45
TOTAL	2535	15.84	100.00	3074	17.08	100.00	5609	16.49	100.0

In the first category we place agriculture and livestock work which consumes 29.35 per cent of the total time. Since they are not very productive activities but are essential for livelihood, therefore, some time has to be devoted towards them. Another significant dimension is added to this problem and the drudgery problems becomes crystal clear when we study the amount of time devoted to fuel and fodder collection and water fetching. Together they absorb 5.41 hours in a day which comes to about 32.80 per cent of the total time. The problem of fuel and fodder is very alarming both for the region in general and the womenfolk in particular. It taxes the womenfolk heavily in terms of health in long run and family system. The depletion of forest cover as a result of commercial exploitation of forests and non-availability of fuel and fodder in the vicinity of the villages has added an ecological dimension too and this has caught the notice of the environmentalists and the people. The story of Chipko movement is now a household story in the villages and has shown the environmental and family concern raised through the voice of womenfolk. Even water fetching is not an easy affair as it has to be searched outside the villages. However, in some villages, water has been provided through pipes by government, but has not solved the problem of womenfolk due to incompletion of such projects or drying of water sources.

The districtwise time pattern as revealed in the study did not show much variation as compared to total figures. The time devoted to agriculture and livestock in Chamoli and Pithoragarh districts is recorded 4.05 hours (25.57 per cent of total work) and 4.16 hours (24.36 per cent of total work) for agriculture and 0.69 hours (4.36 per cent) and 0.77 hours (4.51 per cent) for livestock. The problem of land sub-division fragmentation of holdings and its distance from the villages, the nature of topography, problem of soil erosion, the winter and rainy conditions and other such factors have increased the work load on women folk. The burden of livestock activity depends on the number of cattle heads at the disposal of family, the time taken for fodder collection, the time devoted to the cleaning of cow sheds, feeding of animals and other sundry operations related to livestock. The multiple nature of such operations and the full involvement of womenfolk due to her present position and status in the household leaves her at the receiving end. Such is the nature and magnitude of outdoor work and the drudgery associated with it.

Among the indoor activities, cooking, grinding and husking of corn are the chief activities of the womenfolk and the respective activities consume 1.32 hours (8.00 per cent of the total time) and 1.21 hours (7.34 per cent) of a woman in a day. The time involved in cooking generally depends on the family size, type of food, nature and condition of fuelwood and the cooperation of other family members.

Another major indoor activity involves grinding and husking which requires physical labour. In the hill region, grinding and husking of corn are manually done by the womenfolk. In some villages, the facility of traditional water chakkis are available. But these water chakkis are located far from villages and in a majority of cases womenfolk were found not to make their use. As a result this process again takes a lot of time of the womenfolk. However, some mechanical devices (Atta Chakkies) operated by either electricity or diesel were found in some villages. But these facilities are not utilized by most of the families because of high service charges traditional unadjustability with such devices. Husking and grinding is basically a female dominated affair. This activity involves physical exertion and therefore problem of backbone pain is found frequent among a major proportion of such females.

Regarding care of children and aged persons, the study computed an average figures of 0.65 hours (3.93 per cent of total time) which the female has to spend. The figures are 0.55 hours (3.47 per cent) for district Chamoli and 0.74 hours (4.33 per cent) for Pithoragarh district. The time devoted to such activities depends upon the number of such dependable persons and number of working hands. Under the head of leisurely and recreational type work, activities like, business, craft, reading and writing, entertainment and religious and social work are included. The total time devoted to these activities is 1.45 hours by a woman in a day

as revealed by Table 4.1. Taking total respondents together, it is revealed that the total time devoted to craft and business is recorded 0.10 hours. It has found that some of the respondents had stitching machines, small shop, spinning and weaving work, as a result they were earning some income for themselves. About reading and writing, it is found that little time was devoted. Illiteracy among women is the basic reason for this trend and pattern. Towards this activity 0.18 hours in a day is devoted by a woman in the sample villages. Due to lack of infrastructural facilities related to entertainment and lack of spare time available with womenfolk, a very low time is devoted towards entertainment by the respondents.

In a largely male dominated society, where little attention is paid to promotion of women education, partly due to social customs and traditions and partly due to lack of girls schools, education and literacy is still a low key affair. In our sample of 340 women (respondents), some 200 or 58.8 per cent were found illiterate. On the other hand, those who were literate, the quality of these can be doubted. Considering the overall socio-cultural environment, it can only be expected that reading and writing activity is confined to only selected households which explains a small percentage of time devoted to this type of activity. Since education is a skill generating and personality reforming programme, its full impact has not yet been explored in both by womenfolk and the family elders. This important human

indicator is in need of serious qualitative targeting in order to improve the future prospects of rural women of the hill region.

Entertainment is also a low key affair in the rural households and this too is confined to listening of radio, visiting melas (fairs) and participating in festivals. The entertainment hours are recorded 0.05 hours (0.30 per cent) in the aggregate, being 0.06 hours in Chamoli district and 0.04 hours in Pithoragarh. In contrast to reading and writing and entertainment, we surprisingly noted that the time disposal on social and religious work is comparatively more. This is partly explained due to common customs and traditions observed in the hills and due to the sanction they receive of elderly male community. Thus participation in such activities become mandatory for one and all. Out of a total of 16.49 hours of daily work about 0.55 (3.33 per cent) for social work and 0.57 hours (3.45 per cent) for religious activities are devoted by a woman in the hill region. In Kumaon and Garhwal hills these figures were found remarkably close.

4.2 Seasonal Variations in Day to Day Work

Survey data pertaining to hours of daily work of the women for performing household and non-household activities in the rural areas of hill region revealed that there have

been variations in the hours of their daily work in different seasons, viz. winter, summer and rainy season. Table 4.2 describes the variations in the magnitude of daily work

Table 4.2 : Seasonwise Per Woman Hours of Daily Work

Name of Village	Seasonal Variation in Per Day Hours of Work			
	Winter Season (Hrs.)	Summer Season (Hrs.)	Rainy Season (Hrs.)	Total (Hrs.)
Panney Gaon	14.70	14.89	15.49	15.07
Baragaon	15.25	16.75	16.93	16.27
Langasu	15.37	15.85	16.25	15.82
Jhirkoti	15.45	15.65	17.47	16.20
Chaura Rajpur	16.71	17.44	17.58	17.24
Kharkarki	16.67	16.95	18.73	17.46
Devat	16.22	16.38	17.09	16.55
Chhana	16.27	16.34	18.55	17.04
All Villages	16.05	16.25	17.19	16.49

performed by women in different seasons. It is observed that the hours of daily work were recorded highest in the rainy season among all the seasons. During rainy season the work load related to agricultural operations is considerably increased in the hill region, because relatively more crops are grown during kharif season. In performing different activities a woman has to devote 17.19 hours in a day in the

rainy season. It is the period of kharif crops in which maximum number of crops are grown on the one hand and the total cropped area also increases on the other. However, during winter season, the hours of daily work were recorded 16.05, because it is agriculturally slack period. In the summer season, a woman has to work for a duration of 16.25 hours in a day. The work load on women during rainy season was recorded 7.10 per cent higher than the wordload of winter season and 5.78 per cent more than the work burden of summer season.

Looking at the figures related to per day hours of work of women during different seasons in the sample villages, by and large a similar pattern was found in all the villages and seasonal variation was observed in the work load of rural women.

4.3 Migration and Problem of Excess Burden on Women

It has already been mentioned that migration of male members from the villages to the towns or cities in search of employment and income is one of the common features of human settlement in the hill region of Uttar Pradesh. Migration of male members adds to the problem of women drudgery in the hill region. This vicious circle results in increase time being devoted to agriculture without any proportional increase of output. Though the migrant households receive remittances from the migrants which definitely increases the

purchasing power of the families and enhances the assets formation, but it is at the cost of increased work burden on the womenfolk.

In the following paragraphs we have tried to analyse the impact of migration of male members on daily routine work of the womenfolk in rural areas and to find out how the problem of excess work arises. In other words, an attempt has been made to examine how the process of male migration increases the work burden of household on women and the problem of drudgery. The process of migration is all a male dominated affair. As the male members migrate out of villages, their work, in the absence of any substitute labour available falls on womenfolk and other family members. The analysis of data found the women members of migrant households have been working more than of non-migrant households.

This drudgery of womenfolk is self evident as outdoor activities has to be devoted more time, since some amount of cooperative effort existed in the past as some male members used to share the task of agricultural operations and livestock along with womenfolk. Besides outdoor work, the household work increases as more time has to be devoted to child care and aged persons. Along with that the women face problems regarding marketing operations, sale and purchase of physical assets, like land, cattle and agricultural surplus and work related to bank, school, post office and other institutions, which require time as well as education.

The analysis of data pertaining to the working pattern of respondents and workload on them (women) according to migrant households and non-migrant households has been made in Table 4.3. When we compare the hours of per day work of a woman in migrant household (from where any of male member has migrated) with the hours of work of woman in non-agricultural household (from where no member has migrated), it is found

Table 4.3 : Per Woman Hours of Daily Work in Migrant and Non-Migrant Households

Name of Village	Migrant Households			Non-Migrant Households			Total		
	No.of Respondents	Per day total hours of work of the respondents	Per woman total hours of daily work	No.of Respondents	Per day total hours of work of the respondents	Per woman total hours of daily work	No.of Respondents	Per day total hours of work of the respondents	Per woman total hours of daily work
Panney Gaon	21	323	15.38	19	280	14.73	40	603	15.07
Baragaon	8	137	17.12	32	514	16.06	40	651	16.27
Langasu	17	290	17.05	23	343	14.91	40	633	15.82
Jhirkoti	25	441	17.64	15	207	13.80	40	648	16.20
Chaura Rajpur	6	112	18.66	39	664	17.02	45	776	17.24
Kharkarki	4	72	18.00	41	714	17.41	45	786	17.46
Devat	17	295	17.35	28	450	16.07	45	745	16.55
Chhana	11	205	18.63	34	562	16.52	45	767	17.04
All Villages	109	1875	17.05	231	3734	16.27	340	5609	16.49

that a woman in migrant household works about 17.05 hours in a day whereas in non-migrant household a woman has to work about 16.27 hours in a day. In other words, the study revealed that a woman in migrant household has to devote about 4.80 per cent more time than the woman of non-migrant household in day to day activities as a result of migration of male members. The burden of work on women in case of migrant households in all the villages understudy is relatively more than that of non-migrant households. However, there has been variation in the magnitude of workload. The work variation of women between migrant and non-migrant households was found highest in village Jhirkoti followed by village Chhana. The hours of work differentials of women in migrant and non-migrant households was recorded lowest in village Kharkarki, followed by village Panneygaon.

We have already discussed that the women of migrant households have to perform relatively more work in the rural areas of the Hill region. Here it would be worthwhile to examine the trend of migration in the sample households to understand the magnitude of additional work burden on womenfolk as a result of migration of family members. The data regarding the additional activities which are to be performed by the women in the absence of migrated persons is presented in Table 4.4. The survey data revealed that out of 340 households, about 32.00 per cent households reported migration of their family members. However, there has been variation in the proportion of such households in the sample

villages. The proportion of households from where some male members have migrated was found highest 62.50 per cent in village Jhirkoti of district Chamoli and lowest 8.89 per cent in village Kharkarki in district Pithoragarh. In population term, about 6.74 per cent population have migrated from the total population of sample households. The proportion of female members was 2.75 per cent in the total migrants. It was also found that about 88.03 per cent of the households (from migration has taken place) receive remittances at a regular intervals from the migrants. In the sample villages, the proportion of households receiving remittances was highest 100.00 per cent in village Kharkari and lowest 80.24 per cent in village Jhirkoti.

Different types of additional activities were reported by the respondents which they performed in the absence of these male members who have migrated. Table 4.4 shows the main types of work which lead additional burden on the womenfolk of the migrant households.

As a result of migration of male members, the first and foremost additional burden of work on women is related to agricultural operations which the women have to bear as reported by 32.11 per cent respondents of the migrant households. Though the participation of male members in agriculture is limited in the hill region of U.P. However, migration of male members has negative impact on womenfolk as far as burden of work related to agriculture is concerned.

Ploughing of agricultural land is done by only male members in the region. Where adult male members are not available in the households, the women have either to pay money for

Table 4.4 : Trend of Migration and Additional Burden on Women in Absence of Migrants

Name of Village	Total No.of HH in sam-ple	% age of HH from where some male memb-ers migr-ated	% age of Migr-ants in the Total popu-lation	% age of HH rece-iving remit-tance	Additional Activities to be per-formed in the absence of Migrant					
					Agri-cult-ural oper-ation	Live-stock main-tena-nce	Mark-eting	Bank, PO & Scho-ols	Care of child-ren and aged persons	Total
Panney Gaon	40	52.25	12.07	85.71	28.58	9.52	14.28	14.28	33.34	100.00
Baragaon	40	20.00	4.49	87.50	25.00	12.50	25.00	25.00	12.50	100.00
Langasu	40	42.50	8.76	80.24	35.29	17.65	5.88	17.65	23.53	100.00
Jhirkoti	40	62.50	12.08	84.00	32.00	16.00	20.00	12.00	20.00	100.00
Chaura Rajpur	45	13.30	2.55	83.33	33.33	16.67	-	16.67	33.33	100.00
Kharkarki	45	8.89	1.83	100.00	25.00	25.00	-	-	50.00	100.00
Devat	45	37.78	8.58	94.11	35.30	17.65	11.76	11.76	23.53	100.00
Chhana	45	24.44	5.16	90.91	36.37	18.18	9.09	9.09	27.27	100.00
All Villages	340	32.01	6.74	88.03	32.11	15.60	12.84	13.76	25.69	100.00

ploughing work or to give their own labour to others in exchange of ploughing operation. It is observed that the latter option is generally practiced in the villages of the region. Irrigation and harvesting are among other operations

where the womenfolk get cooperation from male members. Care of children and aged persons is the another additional activity in which the women have to devote relatively more time as compared to past when there were no migrants from the family. This activity is reported by 25.69 per cent respondents as an additional burden of work on them. Another 15.60 per cent respondents of migrant households reported that they have to devote additional time in activities related to animal husbandry, in the absence of male members who have migrated. The women of migrant households have to deal with the activities concerned to bank, post office, court, children's schools which ultimately lead to excess work burden on them as reported by 13.76 per cent respondents of migrant households. Some of the respondents of migrant households reported that they have to perform the activities of marketing as additional work. The marketing activities consist of purchase of necessary domestic items, agricultural inputs, medicines and books and stationery. Moreover, in some cases, the women have to settle the court cases also in absence of male members as a result of migration.

4.4 Educational Level of Women and Burden of work

We have also analysed the data pertaining to hours of daily work of the respondents corresponding to their educational level to examine the impact of education on the burden of daily work. Table 4.5 reveals that the hours of

daily work decrease with the increase of the educational level of the respondents. Taking all the respondents of the sample together, it was found that an illiterate woman works

Table 4.5 : *Educational Level of Respondents and Per Day Hours of Work*

Educational Level of Respondents	Chamoli			Pithoragarh			Total		
	No.of Respondents	Per day total hours of work of the respondents	Per woman total hours of daily work	No.of Respondents	Per day total hours of work of the respondents	Per woman total hours of daily work	No.of Respondents	Per day total hours of work of the respondents	Per woman total hours of daily work
Illiterate	97	1612	16.16	103	1790	17.37	200	3402	17.00
Primary	40	563	14.07	57	995	17.45	97	1558	16.05
Jr.High School	15	240	16.00	12	187	15.58	27	427	15.80
High School	4	62	15.50	4	52	13.00	8	114	14.20
Intermediate	2	30	15.00	3	38	12.66	5	68	13.60
Graduate	2	28	14.00	1	12	12.00	3	40	13.33
Total	160	2535	15.84	180	3074	17.07	340	5609	16.49

about 17.00 hours in a day while a respondent who is literate devotes 16.05 hours in performing household and non-household activities. The respondents whose educational standard was Junior High School and High School, their per day work was recorded 15.80 hours and 14.20 hours respectively. The

respondents who were Intermediate generally worked about 13.60 hours in a day, while the duration of daily work was recorded 13.33 hours among the respondents who were graduates. The above analysis highlights a negative correlationship between education of women and burden of work (hours of daily work) on her in the rural areas of hill region. It does not mean that literate women have to perform less activities as compared to illiterate women in the household and non-household activities. Here one explanation can be given for this reason that the educated respondents might be able to perform their day to day activities in short duration of time, perhaps as a result of well planning of their time, i.e. allocation of time to different activities. The second reason for the differentials in the hours of work could be that the male members of the households cooperate to the educated female members in performing the activities.

4.5 Number of Women in the Households and Hours of Work

Factors, like family size, family composition, land holding size, number of animals, distance of forest, level of education, number of children and aged persons and number of adult females in the family generally determine the hours of daily work of women or workload on them in the rural households of the hill region. Examining the relationship between number of adult female members in the household and hours of per day work, it was found that per respondent

(woman) hours of daily work was recorded lower in the households where the number of adult females were higher as is evident by Table 4.6. The respondent worked about 16.95 hours in a day where there was one adult female in a household as against 13.00 hours of work of a respondent in households having more than 4 adult females. In a household consisting 3 to 4 adult females a woman devotes 14.65 hours in performing day to day work. The duration of per day work for a woman is recorded 15.67 hours in the households where there were 2 to 3 adult female members in family.

Table 4.6 Number of Adult Females in the Households of Respondents and Hours of Daily Work

No. of Adult Females in the Household	Chamoli			Pithoragarh			Total		
	No.of Respondents	Total hours of daily work of all respondents	Per respondent total hours of daily work	No.of Respondents	Total hours of daily work of all respondents	Per respondent total hours of daily work	No.of Respondents	Total hours of daily work of all respondents	Per respondent total hours of daily work
One woman	110	1792	16.29	128	2242	17.52	238	4034	16.95
2 - 3	44	663	15.07	37	606	16.38	81	1269	15.67
3 - 4	5	67	13.40	15	226	15.07	20	293	14.65
Above 4	1	13	13.00	-	-	-	1	13	13.00
Total	160	2535	15.84	180	3074	17.07	340	5609	16.49

So far we have discussed the working pattern among women folk, nature and duration of their day to day work and their participation in different activities related to household and non-household work in the rural areas of the Hill region. Similarly the participation of male members in agriculture and animal husbandry as well as their involvement in household activities has been analysed. Now we will examine the pattern of work and participation of male and female members in collection of fuelwood, fodder and water fetching. In performing these activities, not only hard physical labour is required but also one has to cover a long distance. As we have seen that the collection of fuelwood, fodder and water fetching require about one-third of the daily routine work of the women. Undoubtedly, this puts a lot of physical labour on women folk and taxes her health also.

4.6 Pattern of Fuelwood Collection and its Burden

Fuelwood is one of the basic energy requirements and is used for cooking as well as space heating purpose. The problems involved in its collection are manifold and it is the female adults and children who are more involved in this problem. About 80 per cent of the work burden related to fuelwood collection falls on females as is evident from Table 4.7. This figure is based on the work burden of fuel collection shared by female, female child and adult male and female together. According to data collected from the

Table 4.7 : Collection of Fuelwood in Sample Households

Name of Village	Collection of Fuelwood made by					
	Male Adult	Female Adult	Both	Male Child	Female Child	Total
Panney Gaon	12.50	57.50	15.00	2.50	12.50	100.00
Baragaon	5.00	62.50	15.00	5.00	12.50	100.00
Langasu	2.50	92.50	5.00	–	–	100.00
Jhirkoti	10.00	75.00	5.00	10.00	–	100.00
Chaura Rajpur	–	84.40	15.60	–	–	100.00
Kharkarki	8.87	84.40	–	–	6.71	100.00
Devat	4.40	82.30	6.70	2.20	4.40	100.00
Chhana	–	75.60	24.40	–	–	100.00
All Villages	5.30	71.10	10.90	2.30	4.40	100.00

respondents, it was revealed that in 71.1 per cent households, the collection of fuelwood is alone done by the women, whereas in only 5.3 per cent cases, this activity is done by male members. However in some households, the fuelwood is collected by male children as reported by 2.3 per cent respondents. In the case of individual villages, the collection of fuelwood is done by female members in more than 92.00 per cent households in villages Langasu and Kharkari. The analysis of data regarding the collection of fuelwood in the villages of U.P. hills highlights that fuelwood

collection is more or less confined to the womenfolk with a very low participation of male members.

4.7 Distance Covered in Fuelwood Collection

The main problem associated with the fuelwood collection is the distance from where fuel is collected. Forests are the main source of fuelwood in the hill region. As has already mentioned that the fuelwood is collected mostly by the females in the rural areas. This activity is one of the activities which adds to drudgery on them because the womenfolk have to cover a considerable distance and this distance is increasing day by day due to depletion of forest cover as a result of commercial and indiscriminate exploitation of forests. Table 4.8 presents the percentage distribution of respondents reporting the distances that have to be covered in collection of fuelwood by their family members. Taking all the respondents together, the survey data revealed that the women have to cover more than 8 kms. to collect fuelwood as reported by 4.7 per cent respondents. The proportion of the respondents was recorded 10.00 per cent who reported that the collection of fuelwood requires a travel of 8 kms. for them. Another 9.1 per cent respondents reported this distance as 7 kms. The women of 23.00 per cent households have to cover 6 kms. of distance for this purpose. In 29.40 per cent cases, the women have to go 5 kms. for the collection of fuelwood. Those households whose females have

to go 4 kms. constituted about 10.3 per cent in the total sample. Some women have to move about 3 kms. as reported by 13.5 per cent respondents. Given the hilly terrain, the severe cold conditions, the rainy season and the danger of wild animals, the problem of fuelwood collection can well be understood.

Table 4.8 : Distance Covered in Collection of Fuelwood

Name of Village	Distance Covered in Collection of Fuelwood							
	Less than 3 kms	4 Kms	5 Kms	6 Kms	7 Kms	8 Kms	More than 8 kms.	Total
Panney Gaon	32.5	7.5	25.0	12.5	10.0	7.5	5.0	100.0
Baragaon	7.5	17.5	42.5	25.0	7.5	-	-	100.0
Langasu	-	5.0	37.5	42.5	5.0	10.0	-	100.0
Jhirkoti	7.5	7.5	22.5	27.5	12.5	17.5	5.0	100.0
Chaura Rajpur	26.6	26.7	20.0	17.8	2.4	2.5	-	100.0
Kharkarki	15.5	11.2	33.3	26.7	6.6	6.7	-	100.0
Devat	-	-	-	13.3	26.6	33.5	26.6	100.0
Chhana	17.6	6.7	55.6	20.0	-	-	-	100.0
All Villages	13.5	10.3	29.4	23.0	9.1	10.0	4.7	100.0

4.8 Time Required for Fuelwood Collection

To cover long distances for fuelwood collection, the women have to devote a considerable amount of time.

Information about the time required in collection of fuelwood by the family members were also gathered from the respondents. Data presented in Table 4.9 highlights that the collection of fuelwood in the rural households of the region requires a considerable time. On an average at least 6 hours are needed for collection of fuelwood at a time. However, variations have been found in the proportion of respondents reporting time requirement in fuelwood collection in sample villages. The women of 13.50 per cent households have to spend about 3 hours in collection of fuelwood at a time. This was the minimum time needed for fuelwood collection according to the information gathered from the respondents. For 39.70 per cent households, the fuelwood collection requires 4 to 5 hours in each time. Another 32.10 per cent respondents told that the numbers of their families have to

Table 4.9 : Requirement of Time in Each Collection of Fuelwood

Hours spent on one time collection of fuelwood	No. of Respondents reported	Percentage of Respondents
Upto 3	46	13.5
4 – 5	135	39.7
5 – 7	109	32.1
8 and above	50	14.7
Total	340	100.0

spend 6 to 7 hours in one time collection of fuelwood. The proportion of respondents was recorded 14.70 per cent who reported that more than 8 hours are needed for their family members in each trip for the collection of fuelwood.

Coming back to the time problem, the study revealed that some 74.40 per cent households (aggregate of 8 villages) were found to be devoting more time in fuelwood collection as compared to five years back as reported by the respondents. Only 3.8 per cent respondents reported that their families were better of in this regard. Another 21.80 per cent respondents reported that the time requirement in collection of fuelwood was same as compared to 5 years back. The reasons for more time are easy to discover and are illustrated in Table 4.10. One reason is the deforestation problem as a result of commercial exploitation and here in lies the crux of the entire problem and needs to be given serious thought by the government. Deforestation leads not only scarcity of fuelwood and fodder but also environmental degradation and ecological imbalances. The Chipko movement from the public was one of such conservation efforts in this direction. Another reason for more time is the restrictions from forest department and the forest laws as reported by about 40.00 per cent respondents. Further the lack of concern of forest authorities also creates a problem of its own. Lastly, due to an increase in family size, the family requirements for fuelwood have increased in the case of 3.60

per cent households among those who reported more time in fuelwood collection.

Table 4.10 : Time Taken in Collection of Fuelwood as Compared to 5 years back

Name of Village	% of Respondents reported requirement of time in collecting fuelwood			Reasons for more time			Reasons for less time	
	Same time	More time	Less time	Deforestation due to commercial exploitation	Restrictions from Forest Department	Family size increased	Reduction in fuelwood consumption	Division of family
Panney Gaon	20.0	75.0	5.0	73.3	23.4	3.3	-	100.00
Baragaon	20.0	80.0	-	71.9	28.1	-	-	-
Langasu	10.0	85.0	5.0	64.7	35.3	-	100.0	-
Jhirkoti	12.5	85.0	2.5	47.1	50.0	2.9	-	100.00
Chaurarajpur	20.0	73.3	6.7	45.5	54.5	-	66.6	33.40
Kharkarki	26.6	64.5	8.9	27.6	55.2	17.2	50.0	50.00
Devat	42.2	55.5	2.3	60.0	40.0	-	-	100.00
Chhana	20.0	80.0	-	61.1	33.3	5.6	-	-
All Villages	21.8	74.4	3.8	56.5	39.9	3.6	46.2	53.80

Note : Figures are in percentages

As we have mentioned that about 3.80 per cent of the total respondents reported less time in collection of fuelwood as compared to 5 years back. There have been two major reasons of this trend as viewed by the respondents.

Family division was the first reason as reported by 53.80 per cent respondents. Due to availability of kerosene oil and coal, there have been reduction in the fuelwood consumption in some households. This reason was reported by 46.20 per cent of the respond-nts reporting lesser time involvement in fuelwood collection. The proportion of respondents in five villages (out of 8 sample villages) was above 75 per cent who reported that fuelwood collection requires more time as compared to 5 years back.

The sources of fuelwood in the sample villages was forests. However, the burden falls on the forest panchayats as more than 97 per cent respondents told that the fuelwood is collected from the forest panchayats. Rest 3.00 per cent respondents reported that collection of fuelwood were made from reserve forests. There have been differentials as far as pattern of fuelwood collection is concerned. The respondents were asked about the usual pratice of fuelwood collection in their households. The study revealed that different patterns are adopted by the households in collecting the fuelwood and of course these patterns are determined by family size and its composition, availability of fuelwood, weather, distance of forest, availability of time and need of the fuelwood. About 15.6 per cent respondents reported that they usually collect it daily. The families of 30.60 per cent respondents collect fuelwood once in a week. Some 21.20 per cent households make the collection of fuelwood twice in a week. The households

constituted about 25.00 per cent where collection of fuelwood is made once in a month. About 4.70 per cent respondents reported that collection of fuelwood is made two time in a month. However, there were households where the fuelwood is collected once in a year. Here it would be necessary to mention that the pattern of collection does not mean that fuelwood is collected by a person. Generally more than one members of the family go for the purpose of fuelwood collection. The households who collect fuelwood after a gap of time, usually hire other persons for collection of fuelwood apart from their own family members.

As far as pattern of fuelwood collection, distance covered in collection and time required for this activity are concerned, our study highlights that the problem has been gender biased as well as the incident and impact falls mainly on the womenfolk. The depletion of forest cover and in sincere effort towards afforestation has created problem for both mankind and nature. This is evident as the distance and time taken per unit has increased and is continuously on the rise. The frequency of visits to forests is dictated by the need of over all requirement of households, the energy substitutes available, the problem of storing fuelwood and so on. However, a majority of the households have to visit the forest either daily or once or twice in a week. This has an adverse impact on the health of womenfolk. A proper fuelwood policy is required to solve the problem of womenfolk and nature.

Collection of fuelwood, fodder and water fetching are the main activities to be performed by womenfolk in the hill region which require a coverage of long distance for their procurement. These activities consume not only the significant portion of their time but also exploit the physical energy of the womenfolk. In other words, it can be said that these activities increase the drudgery of women. We have already discussed the requirement of time in fuelwood collection, extent of travel in its procurement and burden on women. We will now examine the problems related to fodder collection and pattern of its procurement.

4.9 Pattern of Fodder collection and its Related Problems

The number of animals per family in the hill region are relatively higher compared to other regions of the state. Obviously, the requirement of fodder for animals is also higher. Collection of fodder in the hill region is basically a women's job and participation of male members is completely absent in this activity. A major part of the total fodder requirement is collected from nearby forests.

The fodder obtained from agricultural fields in the form of crop by-product is very limited due to small holdings and lack of arable land. As a result, the women have to cover a long distance in search of fodder. The search of fodder becomes a daily exercise with some relief in the rainy season

(when fodder is easily available inthe fields) and women have to go for the same out of the village. Information regarding the distance covered in the collection of fodder was also gathered from the respondents. Our survey data revealed that on an average the collection of fodder requires a travel of 5 to 6 kms. Variations have been found in the proportions of the respondents reporting different distances. Table 4.11 shows the distances covered by the womenfolk in the collection of fodder. Out of total respondents, 36.75 per

Table 4.11 : Distance Covered by Women in Collection of Fodder

Name of Village	Per Cent of Respondents reporting various distances covered in the collection of Fodder						
	Less than 2 kms	3 Kms	4 Kms	5 Kms	6 Kms	More than 6 kms.	Total
Panney Gaon	2.5	45.0	12.5	15.0	25.0	–	100.0
Baragaon	–	–	5.0	20.0	65.0	10.0	100.0
Langasu	–	12.5	10.0	22.5	45.0	10.0	100.0
Jhirkoti	–	–	12.5	32.5	17.5	37.5	100.0
Chaura Rajpur	2.2	17.8	46.6	13.3	17.8	2.3	100.0
Kharkarki	–	6.6	13.3	31.1	35.6	13.4	100.0
Devat	–	–	–	–	28.8	71.2	100.0
Chhana	–	4.4	17.8	13.3	60.0	4.5	100.0
All Villages	0.59	10.58	15.00	18.22	36.75	18.86	100.0

cent reported that they have to cover 6 kms. distance for procuring fodder. The women of 18.86 per cent households have to go more than 6 kms. for the purpose of fodder collection as reported by the respondents. About 18.22 per cent respondents reported that the women in their households have to cover a distance of 5 kms. for procuring fodder. Another 15.00 per cent respondents reported that fodder collection requires a travel of 4 kms. Those who have to go less than 3 kms. constituted about 11.17 per cent in the total sample. In the sample villages, the proportion of respondents was highest 72.2 per cent in villagbe Devat who reported that the women in their households have to go more than 6 kms. as far as the collection of fodder was concerned. On the other hand, the proportion of respondents was highest 20.00 per cent who have to go less than 3 kms. in village Chaura Rajpur for the same activity.

Some of the respondents were of the view that at present collection of fodder requires more time as compared to 5 years back. Data pertaining to requirement of time at present in the collection of fodder as compared to 5 years back revealed that there have been variations in the statement of respondents regarding the requirement of time for fodder collection. Table 4.12 presents the percentage of respondents reporting their opinion about the requirement of time at present for fodder collection as compared to 5 years back and the reasons for this trend. The proportion of

respondents was 52.2 per cent who reported that collection of fodder takes more time as compared to 5 years back. The respondents constituted 45.9 per cent in the total sample who reported that collection of fodder requires same time as it was 5 years back. However, the proportion of respondents was recorded 2.9 per cent who reported that collection of fodder require less time as compared to past. Various reasons were given by the respondents for taking more time in the collection of fodder. As a result of depletion of forest covers in the hills, the distance of forests has been increasing on the one hand, while the grass is not easily available on the other. The women have to cover a long distance which takes more time. This reason has been reported by 66.10 per cent of the respondents who reported more time. The proportion of respondents was recorded highest 88.2 per cent in village Devat and lowest 52.4 per cent in village Jhirkoti. Some of the respondent reported that cattle heads in their households have increased and the proportion of such respondents was 17.8 per cent. Due to division of family members as well as migration of some members, the burden of fodder collection falls on the remaining females in the households. As a result collection of fodder takes more time now compared to 5 years back as reported by 16.10 per cent respondents. As we have already mentioned that 2.9 per cent respondents reported that collection of fodder requires less time. For this trend two reasons have been given by such respondents. About 70.0 per cent of them reported that number of animals in their

households have decreased as a result the fodder is required in lesser quantity and also lesser time is required. During the last 5 years the members of 30.0 per cent households have increased and the collection of fodder is also done by other female members in the households. As a result they have to devote less time in collection of fodder as compared to past.

Table 4.12 : As Compared to 5 Years Back Time is Required for Collection of Fodder

Name of Village	Percentage of Respondents Reporting							
	Collection requires			Reasons for more time			Reasons for less time	
	Same time	More time	Less time	Not easily available	Cattle heads increased	Family members decreased	Cattle heads decreased	Family members increased
Panney Gaon	37.5	55.0	7.5	54.5	27.3	18.2	66.6	34.4
Baragaon	37.5	62.5	-	60.0	20.0	20.0	-	-
Langasu	50.0	50.0	-	65.0	15.0	20.0	-	-
Jhirkoti	47.5	52.5	-	52.4	38.1	9.5	-	-
Chaurarajpur	62.2	35.6	2.2	62.5	25.0	12.5	100.0	-
Kharkarki	42.2	44.4	13.4	65.0	10.0	25.0	66.6	33.4
Devat	26.7	73.3	-	78.8	9.1	12.1	-	-
Chhana	62.2	37.8	-	88.2	-	11.8	-	-
All Villages	45.9	52.2	2.9	66.1	17.8	16.1	70.0	30.0

4.10 Requirement of Time in Water Fetching

Water fetching is also one ofthe activities which require physical hard labour, travelling and devotion of time in the hill region. Water is generally required for drinking purpose, domestic use and for the use of animals. The analysis of data regarding the pattern of water fetching in the sample households revealed that it is a female dominated job in the region. As much as 65.3 per cent respondents reported that water in their households is generally fetched by female members. The proportion of respondents constituted about 14.7 per cent who reported that the activity of water fetching is performed by both male as well as female members in their households. Children's sole contribution is also very significant in fetching water in the households as evident by Table 4.13. About 14.4 per cent respondents reported that generally water is fetched by the children in their households. Again among the children, this activity is done by also females in 80 per cent cases. Overall, it emerged that about 85 per cent of the work related to water fetching is performed by females in sample villages. All the villages, which have been surveyed, have shown the similar pattern as far as water fetching is concerned.

The main sources of drinking water in the sample villages were either tap water or spring water. Data regarding the sources of drinking water and the distances covered by the members of households have been presented in

Table 4.13 : Pattern of Water Fetching in Sample Households

Name of Village	Water is generally fetched by						
	Male Adult	Female Adult	Both	Male Child	Female Child	Both	Total
Panney Gaon	10.0	62.5	25.0	-	2.5	-	100.0(40)
Baragaon	5.0	50.0	20.0	5.0	20.0	-	100.0(40)
Langasu	2.5	65.0	22.5	-	7.5	2.5	100.0(40)
Jhirkoti	7.5	60.0	5.0	5.0	12.5	10.0	100.0(40)
Chaura Rajpur	-	68.9	8.9	-	22.2	-	100.0(45)
Kharkarki	15.6	71.1	2.2	-	8.9	2.2	100.0(45)
Devat	-	66.7	15.6	-	17.7	-	100.0(45)
Chhana	4.4	75.6	20.0	-	-	-	100.0(45)
All Villages	5.6	65.3	14.7	1.2	11.5	1.7	100.0(340)

Table 4.13. According to the respondents, about 64.4 per cent households had the provision of tap water either on individual or collective basis. Rest 35.6 per cent respondents reported that the members of their households have to fetch water from the springs nearby their villages. In the individual sample villages, the facility of tap water was found highest in 95.00 per cent households in village Panneygaon of Chamoli district and it was lowest 11.20 per cent households in village Devat of Pithoragarh district. Information about the distance covered for fetching drinking water in the sample villages revealed variations. About 59.4 per cent respondents reported that their family members have

Table 4.14 : Source and Distance of Drinking Water

Name of Village	Source of Drinking Water		Distance to cover for fetching Drinking Water				
	Tap	Spring	Less than 1 km.	2 Kms.	3 Kms.	4 Kms.	5 Kms
Panney Gaon	38 (95.0)	2 (5.0)	38 (95.0)	2 (5.0)	-	-	-
Baragaon	34 (85.0)	6 (15.0)	28 (70.0)	12 (30.0)		-	-
Langasu	24 (60.0)	16 (40.0)	20 (50.0)	12 (30.0)	3 (20.0)	-	-
Jhirkoti	32 (80.0)	8 (20.0)	30 (75.0)	5 (12.5)	5 (12.5)	-	-
Chaura Rajpur	8 (17.8)	37 (82.2)	8 (17.8)	11 (24.4)	18 (40.0)	5 (11.2)	3 (6.6)
Kharkarki	40 (88.8)	5 (11.2)	40 (88.9)	3 (6.6)	-	2 (4.5)	-
Devat	5 (11.2)	40 (88.8)	4 (8.8)	5 (11.2)	6 (13.3)	18 (40.0)	12 (26.7)
Chhana	38 (84.4)	7 (15.6)	34 (75.5)	9 (20.0)	2 (4.5)	-	-
All Villages	219 (64.4)	121 (35.6)	202 (59.4)	64 (18.8)	34 (10.0)	25 (7.3)	15 (4.5)

to cover less than one kilometre for fetching drinking water. Mostly the households in this group were those who had tap water facility. The public water taps were located at some common places and the people have to cover some distances to procure drinking water. The population of 18.8 per cent households have to move about 2 kms. for fetching drinking

water and those who have to travel 3 kms. constituted about 10.0 per cent. The proportion of respondents was 7.30 per cent who reported that the distance of water source was 4 kms. for them. The family members of 4.5 per cent respondents have to cover about 5 kms. for fetching drinking water.

During the survey, some of the respondents reported that at present fetching of drinking water takes more time as compared to the past. However, some of the respondents were of the view that now it requires less time because villages have been provided water through pipes. About 17.60 per cent respondents reported that water fetching takes more time as compared to 5 years back. The major reason of this problem was that the water sources have dried up due to deforestation and as a result of this the villagers have to travel long distances to fetch water. In some households the family members have increased and their consumption level of water has gone up. However, for some households water fetching takes less time because of the facility of piped water connection. The above analysis indicated that the process of deforestation has increased the drudgery of women folk. Whether it is the procurement of fodder or the collection of fuelwood or the fetching of water the direct burden falls on the womenfolk in the hill region as these activities are mostly performed by women. The relationship of forests and women is very close.

CHAPTER V

STATUS AND AWARENESS OF THE HILL WOMEN

Women's contribution to national development is crucial. The process of development has no meaning, unless women are fully integrated into the development process. Emancipation of women is an essential pre-requisite for economic development and social transformation of the nation. However, women are not being fully utilized as a potential human resource and have also been marginalized in terms of benefits from the developmental programmes in our country. Although women form nearly half of the human capital in the country, yet they remain the most deprived and have been for long a neglected segment of the society, despite the Constitutional guarantee for equal rights and priviledges for men and women. Mahatma Gandhi believed that women's productive abilities and attitudes were essential forces that need to be allowed to develop fully for human and social development with justice and dignity.

The goals of national policy extend full support and emphasize equal participation of women in all walks of life and integrate them into the national stream. This mainstream

development can occur subject to the condition that the outlook and perception which marginalise women's role in the family as well as society are eliminated. The subject of women's development is multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary which demands an evolutionary, pragmatic and realistic approach for their development. The emphasis on planning to bring about changes in the status and role of women will require recognition of two important factors by policy makers. Firstly, it demands a continuously expanding information base to be realistic, relevant and effective, and secondly it requires proper coordination of policies framed by different departments of government since they are inter-related and inter-dependent. If permanent changes are to take place in the status of women that give them control over their destiny; then due attention must be given to involve womenfolk in such income generating projects and further support them by such structural and institutional changes which allow them to acquire skills, self discretion, decision-making for their economic independence. The national government reports on the status of women pointed out the lack of monitoring of responsiveness of governmental programmes to women's need and information base. The absence of an integrated policy mechanism in this regard is a serious lacuna which culminates in an ill directed policy efforts towards changing the status of women. Economic development by itself does not contribute to the eradication of social inequalities. A policy for socio-economic development

through social advocacy involving the raising of social awareness of women's problems through public education and public mobilisation is an essential requirement in this regard.

The socio-cultural, socio-economic and political pillars which have rested on strong historical foundations evolved from the past have by and large shaped the women's destiny and have been influencial in deciding the overall status, role and awareness of women upto the present times. The education of women is also governed by economic, social, political and cultural factors.

The subject of women's education must be examined in this setting and efforts must be made at policy level to relieve it from its past dogma and discover it in this new light. It can otherwise serve as a very powerful instrument of overall socio-economic transformation. The full potential of education have yet to be discovered at all levels, viz. individual, society and government. While considerable educational gaps continue to be maintained between male and female education as discovered in the study (Chapter III) of the villages, yet this past damage can be rectified and corrected through mass mobilization programmes aimed at generating literacy and awareness and targeted at those women who have earlier missed the race. For the new generation both primary and secondary education enrolment must continue. Education must assume both a qualitative and quantitative

dimension, the former have often been ignored in the planning process as such.

Emphasis on education becomes important in the changed economic scenario, after the 1991 liberalisation of economic policies. There has been a sudden shift in the policies from government regulated programmes to people's oriented programmes. This shift assumes further significance since the passing of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in April 1994. All states accordingly made necessary legislation in this regard. Elections have also taken place in some states. In U.P., the election process has yet to take place. This Act integrates women into political process by providing 30 per cent reservation of seats for women in the Panchayat Institutions. However, the full implications of this experiment and women's role in Panchayats will emerge only after a decade or so.

It is worthwhile to examine the status of women, and the level of their general awareness in the rural areas of the hill region. This exercise is being undertaken in the present Chapter.

5.1 Status of Women in the Family

In the previous chapter, the burden of work load on rural women in the hill region has been analysed in terms of hours devoted by them in performing different activities of

their routine work. We have also noted the extent of drudgery associated with womenfolk as revealed by an analysis of various working patterns. The pattern of work revealed a high participation rate of womenfolk in all the activities, i.e., household and non-household. In some cases the entire range of the activities were performed by the female members. In this chapter, we have tried to examine the status of women in the family, behaviour of family members towards them, the level of their political consciousness, level and extent of their participation in women centred development programmes and pattern of general awareness among them. The status of women in the family that is domestic status can be judged by the fact whether the women are taken into confidence in major decision making processes and whether their advice is sought by the male members of family in economic matters. Data were collected from the respondents regarding the advice taken from them in major household dealings and other major decision making processes, such as, sale and purchase of land, marriage settlement, children's education, house construction, purchase of consumer durables, sale of agricultural produce, sale and purchase of livestock, litigation and property disputes, etc. The analysis of data is presented in Table 5.1. The study revealed that in 42.84 per cent cases, the females were asked about their views by the heads of households in majority of such dealings. However, about 57.16 per cent respondents reported that the major dealings are done or settled by the heads without taking any advice from them. The proportion of such

respondents was comparatively higher in district Pithoragarh than district Chamoli. As women work contributes more in terms of time, output, and income, they need a fair deal both in socio-economic planning and in decision making processes within the family.

The work burden on females and their contribution to such work in the rural areas of hill region is very high and significant. Taking into consideration the work load and contribution of women in the family, the respondents were asked whether their work and contribution was recognised by the family members. About 90.0 per cent respondents reported that their work and contribution in the family was recognised by the family members. However, the proportion of respondents was recorded higher (92.22 per cent) in district Pithoragarh as compared to district Chamoli (87.50 per cent).

One of the important indicators of measuring the status of women is to examine her independence in economic and financial matters. The study revealed that in majority of the cases, the financial matters were handled by male members as well as the economic decision were made by them. The study revealed that 87.65 per cent respondents had their pocket money with them for their personal expenses. However, only 11.47 per cent had institutional savings either in post offices or in banks. The proportion of such respondents were found to be significantly higher in the sample villages of district Chamoli (15.00 per cent) than the sample villages of

district Pithoragarh (8.33 per cent). The volume and amount of institutional savings done by women are determined by their accessibility of institutions, motivation, and the quantum of money in the hands of women. A high incidence of such institutional savings were reported from migrant households (from where male members have migrated) or from household headed by female members. Altogether a large number of respondents carried personal money with them, but in some cases also came to light before the investigators where womenfolk were not allowed to spend money without consulting other members in the family, particularly the head of the household. About 88.82 per cent of the respondents who had such pocket money in their possession spent it without the permission of other members in the family. The proportion of such respondents were 90.62 per cent in the sample villages of district Chamoli and 87.22 per cent in the villages of district Pithoragarh.

In most of the cases, consultations were not made from the women in decision making processes related to households matters and the male members independently took their own decisions. Our survey data confirmed this pattern as far as consulting of womenfolk in the decision making process was concerned. The proportion of respondents was recorded 39.41 per cent who reported that the women in their families were taken into confidence in decision affecting household and family matters. Variations were, however, found in the proportions of respondents reporting such consultations in

decision making processes in the sample districts. In district Chamoli, the proportion of such respondents was 16.87 per cent, while in district Pithoragarh it was 59.44 per cent. In a few households, incidence of female harassment by family members also came into the notice of the survey team and 1.18 per cent respondents reported such cases. In district Chamoli, the cases of harassment were relatively at a higher proportion than in district Pithoragarh. It has already been discussed elsewhere that bulk of the work load relating to home and farm activities are performed by womenfolk in the rural areas of the hill region. The participation of male members is confined to limited activities. The women are seen working from dawn to dusk without any rest. The women must feel humiliated when their work gets unnecessarily checked or is regulated by other members in the family. It was found that in some households the domestic work was assigned to the women by the head of the household and the disposal of their time was further regulated by other members. Such cases were reported by 10.00 per cent respondents and this incidence was reported high in district Chamoli as compared to district Pithoragarh.

In the absence of proper nutrition and health care, the work load and hard physical labour can lead to health problems and different types of diseases among womenfolk. Due to their shy character and personal limitations, women generally bear the pains relating to diseases without any proper treatment. Only in case of major illness they report

Table 5.1 : Status of Women in the Family

Matters related to Status of Women in the Family	Percentage of Respondents Reported		
	District Chamoli	District Pithoragarh	Total
Advice is taken from respondents in household dealings and in major activities	40.10	45.28	42.84
The work and contribution of females are recognised in the family	87.50	92.22	90.00
The respondents have their own Institutional Savings	15.00	8.33	11.47
Resopondents have pocket money for their own disposal	88.12	87.22	87.65
Money is spent by females without consulting other members in the family	90.62	87.22	88.82
Consultations are made from the females in decision making processes in the family	16.87	59.44	39.41
Females are harassed in the family	1.87	0.56	1.18
Females are assigned work and the disposal of their time is regulated by other members	15.00	5.56	10.00
The illness of female members is given prompt attention by family members (guardians)	87.53	91.13	89.42
Treatment of illness is done in:			
(a) Private hospitals/dispensaries	51.87	17.22	33.53
(b) Govt. Hospitals/dispensaries	48.13	82.78	66.47

for treatment. On asking the respondents whether they received prompt attention by the family members when such illness affected them, the responses of the respondents revealed that in 89.42 per cent cases, the illness of female members was given proper attention by the heads of the households and other senior family members. However, some 10.00 per cent respondents reported that their illness were not given prompt attention by the heads. In majority of cases, the treatments of illness were carried in government hospitals as reported by 66.47 per cent respondents. About one-third respondents reported that the treatment of their illness were done in private hospitals. The hospitals in the rural areas of the hill region are located at considerable distances. The study found that on an average a patient has to go about 6 to 10 kms. from their villages to avail such medical facilities.

5.2 Political Consciousness Among Women

After having discussed socio-economic status of women-folk within the family we will discuss the political consciousness among womenfolk and the level of their participation in political activities. Table 5.2 presents the analysis of data collected from the respondents in this context. It revealed that about 7.06 per cent respondents reported their affiliation to political parties, the

district-wise picture being 6.87 per cent in district Chamoli and 7.22 per cent in district Pithoragarh. The low proportion of such women affiliation to political parties in the rural areas of hill region is not difficult to understand. It is a cumulative result of over burden of daily work, low level of education, lack of awareness and lack of independent status in the family. Not only do women suffer from lack of independent status in the family, but cases of interferences in her political activities by male members also came to the notice. About 1.10 per cent of the respondents reported interference in their political activities.

The political activities of womenfolk get influenced by awareness among them and availability of time for participating in such activities. The low level of affiliation to political parties among the rural women in the hill region can be solely attributed to these causes. The study noted that about 21.47 per cent respondents were aware about the political parties and local candidates contesting elections. However, in district Pithoragarh, the awareness among women was recorded relatively at a higher proportion (27.22 per cent) as compared to district Chamoli (15.00 per cent). As far as casting of votes was concerned, the study revealed that 57.32 per cent respondents used to apply their own mind in casting votes, while rest of the respondents were guided by their family members.

Out of total respondents, about 1.18 per cent respondents were or had been members of Gram Sabhas which is a proof of low level of political participation of womenfolk in these local level elected bodies. The districtwise figures were 1.87 per cent in district Chamoli and 0.56 per cent in Pithoragarh. The opinions of respondents were also recorded regarding their level and extent of political participation if they were elected as members of Gram Sabhas. The responses in this context revealed that only 4.71 per cent respondents agreed to become members of Gram Sabhas and were willing to participate actively. It was also found that due to lack of time, majority of the respondents did not agree to take membership of Gram Sabha. Moreover, some respondents showed their incapabilities for performing the duties as active members in any of these locally elected bodies. This analysis highlights that the rural women in this region suffer from lack of awareness, illiteracy, lack of independent status, dearth of motivation and high incidence of work burden.

According to new Panchayati Raj Act, there is a provision for reservation of seats (30 per cent) for women in village panchayats. It is found that the provision of 30 per cent reservation in seats for women was known to only 12.94 per cent respondents. In the sample districts, a significant variation was observed in the proportions of respondents reporting their awareness about reservation. Considerable awareness gap regarding this provision was noticed in the two

districts. While in district Pithoragarh 21.67 per cent respondents were aware about this provision, in district Chamoli, a totally disappointed picture was evident as the proportion of such respondents was only 3.12 per cent.

Again the hypothesis of a high level of ignorance and illiteracy among the rural womenfolk in the Himalayan region was proved by the fact that the reservation of seats for women in Panchayat institutions was not favoured by about 35.00 per cent respondents and they had assigned certain reasons for it. However, 65.00 per cent respondents were found in favour of this provision. The functions and duties of Gram Pradhan were known to about 89.71 per cent respondents in the total sample, districtwise figures being 82.50 per cent in district Chamoli and 96.11 per cent in district Pithoragarh.

Similarly, the information was collected from the respondents about their awareness regarding local representatives and government functionaries at village level. The responses of the respondents revealed that the Member of Parliaments from their constituencies was known to only 3.82 per cent respondents, while 3.53 per cent respondents knew the names of their representatives in the State Assembly. The Block Pramukh was known to 54.12 per cent respondents. However, a great variation was recorded in the proportions of the respondents reporting their awareness about the Block Pramukh in the sample districts. It is very

Table 5.2 : Political Consciousness and Level of Participation

Political Participation and Awareness	Percentage of Respondents Reported		
	District Chamoli	District Pithoragarh	Total
A. Political Participation			
Affiliation to Political Parties	6.87	7.22	7.06
Interference of family members in Political activities of womenfolk	0.62	1.67	1.18
Awareness about the political parties and local candidates contesting elections	15.00	27.22	21.47
Self discretion in casting votes	68.75	47.22	57.32
Membership of women (respondents) in Gram Sabha	1.87	0.56	1.18
Full participation of women if she is elected as member of Gram Sabha	4.37	5.00	4.71
Awareness about 30 per cent reservation of females in Panchayats	3.12	21.67	12.94
Reservation of seats for women in Panchayats is favoured by respondents	65.00	64.44	64.71
Knowledge about the functions and duties of Gram Pradhan	82.50	96.11	89.71
B. Awareness About Political Candidates and Government Personnel			
Member of Parliament	5.62	2.22	3.82
Member of Legislative Assembly	6.88	0.56	3.53
Block Pramukh	2.50	100.00	54.12
Gram Pramukh	100.00	100.00	100.00
Village Level Officer	-	0.56	0.29

surprising to note that the main functionaries of the government who are responsible for implementing and looking after the development programmes at village level, i.e. the Village Development Officer, were known to a very few respondents. Out of total sample of 340 respondents, hardly one or two respondents reported their awareness about the VDO. One can easily understand the laxity on the part of grass root level workers in the remote areas of the hill region so far as developmental activities are concerned.

5.3 Educational Level of Respondents and Political Consciousness

The exercise of judging the extent and level of political participation was also undertaken. It complement and supplement the discussion of the preceding section. Thus this section attempts to examine this relationship based on the educational background of respondents and the participatory skill and compares it with illiterate respondents. When data pertaining to political consciousness and level of participation in political activities among women were analysed according to their educational level, it was found that education of respondents had a positive impact in generating political participation and awareness. Table 5.3 highlights the relationship between educational standards

Table 5.3 : Political Awareness and Educational Level of Respondents

Political Participation and Awareness	Educational Level of Respondents				
	Illi-terate	Prim-ary level	Jr. H.S.	H.S. and above	Total
A. Political Participation					
Affiliation to Political Parties	5.00	10.31	3.70	18.75	7.05
Interference of family members in Political activities of womenfolk	1.50	1.03	-	-	1.18
Awareness about the political parties and local candidates contesting elections	21.00	21.65	22.22	25.00	21.47
Self discretion in casting votes	46.48	62.88	96.28	93.74	57.32
Membership of women (respondents) in Gram Sabha	0.50	1.03	3.70	6.25	1.18
Full participation of women if she is elected as member of Gram Sabha	2.50	4.12	11.11	25.00	4.71
Awareness about 30 per cent reservation of females in Panchayats	7.00	18.56	22.22	37.50	12.94
Reservation of seats for women in Panchayats is favoured by respondents	54.50	77.32	81.48	87.50	64.71
Knowledge about the functions and duties of Gram Pradhan	89.50	90.72	81.48	100.0	89.71
B. Awareness About Political Candidates and Government Personnel					
Member of Parliament	2.00	2.06	18.52	12.50	3.82
Member of Legislative Assembly	2.00	2.06	11.11	18.75	3.53
Block Pramukh	52.00	61.86	48.15	75.00	55.59
Gram Pramukh	100.00	100.00	100.0	100.0	100.0
Village Level Officer	-	1.03	-	-	1.03

of respondents and the level of political participation as well as awareness. The affiliation to political parties was recorded at a higher proportion among the educated respondents as compared to illiterate respondents. The affiliation of respondents to different political parties was 5.00 per cent in the case of illiterates, while it was above 18.00 per cent among respondents whose education was high school and above. The proportion of educated respondents was significantly higher who used to take self decision in casting their votes as compared to illiterate respondents. The level of awarness about the political parties and local candidates contesting election for different elected bodies was also found relatively higher among the educated respondents. Similarly, the knowledge of 30 per cent reservation for women in village panchayats was found in a higher proportion among the literate respondents. The reservation of seats for females in Panchayats was favoured by 54.50 per cent respondents among the illiterates, while this proportion was found increasing with the increase of educational level of the respondents. Awareness about political representatives for different bodies and government functionaries at local level was found at a higher proportions among the educated respondents as compared to illiterate respondents.

The broad conclusion that emerged was the potential of education as an important and powerful instrument of

political and socio-economic transformation in these backward villages of the hill region.

5.4 Development Programmes for Women : Awareness, Participation and Benefits

The development of women in India, has been of primary concern and development planners have been strongly advocating this theme in recent years ever since the publication of the Report of the Committee on the status of women in 1973. Sincere and continuous efforts have been going on in this direction both at Governmental and non-governmental level to improve the status of rural women. Various development programmes for the upliftment of women have been launched during different Five Year Plans and many Acts have also been passed and regulations made for their empowerment. Besides, planning for women's development, government also set up various Committees and Commissions from time to time to study the status of women. Concerted efforts have been made by several Voluntary Organisations, women forums, feminist movements, educational and training institutions for the upliftment of women folk through different means and strategies. But the major thrust of these efforts have been confined on the urban women while bulk of rural woman have yet to be satisfactorily attended. The most important means of achieving improvement in the status of women would be to secure for them a fair deal in income generating opportunities.

The social status of women is decided both by endogeneous and exogeneous variables. While the endogeneous forces emanate within the family and from her immediate surrounding with which her personality interacts the exogeneous forces emanate through both governmental and non-governmental interventions. In addition, the present value system of society has an important bearing in deciding and reserving a role and status for women.

The various development oriented programmes sponsored by both governmental and non-governmental organisations reflect some concern for women and their welfare. Yet it would not be wrong to mention that much developmental effort in this regard has been marginal and has not penetrated in the remote backward rural areas of the hills. In the following pages we will discuss the nature and types of development programmes related to women which are being in progress in the rural areas of the region and the level and extent of awareness, participation and benefits received from these programmes.

At present, over sixty women specific development programmes and schemes are in progress in our country aimed at improving their status and empowerment. The coverage of these development programmes and schemes are very wide as far as the basic objectives are concerned. The programmes have been designed to improve both their status and socio-economic conditions and also to assure them a fair deal in income earning opportunities. In addition, they also aim to empower

them through developing skill and entrepreneurship, providing them gainful employment opportunities and arranging financial support through promotion of welfare measures.

Some of the relevant schemes in this regard are : (a) IRDP with 40 per cent allocation for women; (b) TRYSEM with 40 per cent allocation for women; (c) JRY with 30 per cent allocation for women; (d) Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA); (e) Mahila Mandal Yojana; (f) Balwadi Yojana; (g) Aanganwadi Yojana; (h) Vocational Training for Women; (i) Women's Entrepreneurship Programme; (j) Awareness Generation Programme; and (k) Mahila Samriddhi Yojana.

For the purpose of this study we selected seventeen such programmes and schemes which are currently in progress at national and state levels. These programmes and schemes ranged from awareness to entrepreneurship generation, from minimum needs programmes to the more ambitious DWCRA, TRYSEM, Mahila Mangal Dal Programme, Balbadi and Aanganwadi schemes and the most recent Mahila Samriddhi Yojana. Here we present our findings in this connection based on women responses in terms of awareness, participation and benefits.

The Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) Programme was introduced in 50 districts of the country in 1982-83. Promoted by the Central Government, it is being implemented with the cooperation of UNICEF. The main objective of DWCRA is to improve the lot of rural women through the creation of income generating activities.

DWCRA's aim is to organise women into small groups of 10-15 for the effective utilization of credit under IRDP for increasing women's access to other government programmes and welfare services. It facilitates cooperative effort, and government and community action in planning, implementing and monitoring. In our country more than 73000 women groups have been formed till March 1994 under the DWCRA and more than 11 lakh women have so far been benefited. This programme has been extended to all the districts of the country from 1994-95. It was being implemented in 355 districts till 1993-94. However, this study found that the Development of Women and Children for Rural Areas Programme is not being implemented in our sample districts and it was not known to any respondent in the sample villages. However, incidence of a few developmental programmes related to rural women, such as Mahila Mandal Dal Programme, Balwadi and Aanganwadi Yojana being implemented in the region came to the notice of the survey team. Data pertaining to the level of awareness, participation and benefits received by womenfolk in such programmes is presented in Table 5.4.

The Mahila Mandal Dal programme which aims to promote awareness among rural women was found to be in progress in the sample villages of district Chamoli. In this context the responses of the respondents in district Chamoli revealed that 53.12 per cent respondents were aware about Mahila Mandal Dal programme. About 25.00 per cent (about 47.00 per cent of the respondents who were aware) respondents took part

in Mahila Mandal Dal and all of them have been benefited from such programmes. The benefits from the programme mentioned by respondents have an awareness and education component. However, the respondents in district Pithoragarh had no knowledge about such programme.

The Balwadi Programme is also one of the programmes which lead to the welfare of women and children. The study found that 9.71 per cent respondents in the sample were found aware of Balwadi programme. However, the level of participation among women was not encouraging. The level of participation was negligible in the sample villages. The districtwise data highlighted that the awareness of this programme was found among 18.75 per cent respondents in district Chamoli, but none of them took part in this programme as it was not being run in the sample villages. In district Pithoragarh, the Balwadi programme was being run by a Voluntary Organisation, known as Himalayan Study Circle, Pithoragarh. So far in district Pithoragarh 20 Balwadi Centres have been established in different villages by the Himalayan Study Centre. Due to lack of infrastructural support and dearth of funds, the coverage of Himalayan Study Circle is limited and their activities are confined to few villages. However, this voluntary organisation has been successful in obtaining its objectives and doing commendable work to promote awareness, education and vocational training for the womenfolk.

In our sample villages, the awareness of Balwadi Programme was found among 1.67 per cent respondents and according to the responses of these respondents all of them were taking part in this programme. The respondents who were participants of this programme reported that they were being benefited from the Balwadi programme. Some of the respondents reported that they could not take part in this programme due to lark of time, while in some cases the elder women were taking part from the families of some respondents.

So far as Aanganwadi Yojana is concerned, the study found that this Yojana was not being implemented in the sample villages of district Chamoli and the awareness of this yojana was hard to discover among the respondents. However, evidence of Aaganwadi Yojana picking momentum in the rural areas of district Pithoragarh was found as 42.78 per cent out of 180 respondents were found aware in this regared. About 27.22 per cent respondents participated in this yojana. All the respondents, who took part in Aanganwadi yojana, had been benefited from this yojana. Taking all the respondents together from both the district, it was found that less than one-fourth of the respondents reported their awareness about Aanganwadi Yojana and about 14.41 per cent respondents participated in this Yojana.

The Mahila Samriddhi Yojana (MSY) launched on 2nd October 1993, is one of the most innovating schemes for the economic betterment of rural women. The scheme has been launched to deal with predicaments of women workers at home

Table 5.4 : Development Programmes for Women : Awareness, Participation and Benefits

Development Programmes for Women and Awareness	Percentage of Respondents Reported		
	District Chamoli	District Pithoragarh	Total
A. Development Programmes Related to Women			
Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas:			
a) Awared	–	–	–
b) Participated	–	–	–
c) Benefited	–	–	–
Mahila Mandal Dal Programme :			
a) Awared	53.12	–	25.00
b) Participated	25.00	–	11.76
c) Benefited	25.00	–	11.76
Balwadi Programme :			
a) Awared	18.75	1.67	9.71
b) Participated	–	1.67	0.99
c) Benefited	–	1.67	0.88
Aanganwadi Yojana:			
a) Awared	–	42.78	22.65
b) Participated	–	27.22	14.41
c) Benefited	–	27.22	14.41
Mahila Samridhi Yojana :			
a) Awared	–	–	–
b) Participated	–	–	–
c) Benefited	–	–	–
B. Source of First Hand Information About Development Programmes :			
a) Block Development Officer	52.58	6.40	36.60
b) Gram Pradhan	39.18	87.20	66.20
c) Family Members	4.12	4.00	4.10
d) Relatives	4.12	2.40	3.10

and their work place. It encourages and promotes thrift and enable women to come out of the narrow confines of their homes to go to Post Offices to deposit their hard earned savings and to give them the discretion and the authority to utilize their income in a manner they think appropriate. Till July 31, 1994 more than 17.39 lakh rural women aged 18 and above, have opened MSY accounts of their own in post offices by depositing whatever amount of money they could save. Again, it was a matter of surprise and concern to note that this scheme (MSY) is still dormant in this region, despite its wide publicity in media. Nobody, not even the menfolk of these rural areas were aware about this Yojana. It was, therefore, not difficult to understand the negative responses of respondents (women). The grass root level functionaries were also in helpless position as far as this Yojana is concerned.

Data regarding the source of first hand information about specific development programmes and schemes currently in progress brought into the light the important role of Gram Pradhan who was the connecting bridge between these programmes and the womenfolk. About two-third of the respondents (women) benefited from this source. Another source of information was the Block Development Officer through whom about 26.60 per cent respondents benefited as regards conveying of information. Other sources of information were either the family members or the relatives of the respondents but their information was again based on

these functionaries. Variations were, however, recorded in the proportions of respondents reporting different sources of information about the development programmes for women in the sample villages.

The study revealed that the development programme for women are more or less absent in the rural areas, especially in the remote villages of hills. This should catch the attention of both government and non-governmental organizations and the general public who are concerned with uplift and empowerment of women. A proper and smooth vertical connection is still missing and further devolution of such programmes to grass root levels by utilizing the services of Gram Pradhan is strongly recommended. The socio-economic condition of womenfolk is still inferior and incidence of druagery associated with their work is high. In view of these prevailing conditions the study recommends a proper coordination, monitoring and implementation of government level functionaries to improve the lot of these women.

It has become fashionable these days to involve voluntary organisations also in these programmes. While such a step is welcome as the government load gets shared and the coverage of these programmes would become both extensive and extensive in scope. Yet certain precautions are highly desirable which this study suggests. First, while allocating funds to these NGOs, efforts should be made to bring only those such organisations forward who have a genuine concern

in this regard. Secondly, the activities and progress of these bodies need to be reviewed by experts by taking the actual amount of work done in this connection at the grass root level which can easily be revealed by such respondents in the villages. Third, government should not shed its responsibility by simply delegating these schemes but should engage in identifying new areas and those areas where less progress have been made. Fourth, local level participation and mobilisation of educated public from these areas would best serve the purpose. They know the needs and requirements better than anybody else, therefore, they can be held accountable for both failure and success. This could at the same time serve as an employment generating exercise for the educated youth and also given them the relevant work experience in such social welfare activities. Fifth, necessary training and experience needs to be regularly imparted to these local level NGOs to upgrade their skills. The programmes would have a better reach in terms of both quality and quantity if educated women having secondary and higher education are associated. Finally, disproportionate gains to some sections at the cost of others needs to be seriously addressed. This calls for maintaining iniformity in standards in implementing these programmes and schemes.

In this connection the experiences of other states, such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, should be taken into account, where a number of voluntary organizations are engaged in the task of women development

and they have achieved a considerable amount of success. By encouraging these voluntary organisations in the hill region, the responsibility for implementing the development programmes should be given to these agencies. At present, the base of these voluntary organisation is very narrow. In district Chamoli, a voluntary organisation is engaged for promoting the cause of women. Named, Gomati Prayag Jan Kalyan Parishad Dhunglawali (GPJKPD), is active for the past one decade and has done commendable work for the upliftment of women by organising various development activities related to Balwadi, adult women education, library, family welfare, Mahila Mandal Dal, general awareness, health, agriculture, and tailoring and weaving. This voluntary organisation is working in the villages of this area since June 1982. The study noted its satisfactory progress both in terms of coverage of the area and extension of activities.

In district Pithoragarh, some voluntary organisations such as Gramin Jan Sewa Samiti, Berinag, Parvatiya Phal Utpadan Aur Bahu Dhandhiya Sansthan, Champawat, Berinag Gram Swarajya Mandal, Berinag and Himalayan Study Circle, Pithoragarh are active. However, except the Himalayan Study Circle, the voluntary organisations are mainly associated with the work like conservation of environment, general awareness, cultivation of fruits and horticulture crops. Only the Himalayan Study Circle was found to be engaged in the developmental activity of the womenfolk in this area. The main concern of this organisation is to organise community

development programmes, to establish Balwadi centres, to give education and general awareness, to promote training-cum-production activities based on wool and local materials. This organisation is also engaged in establishing bio-gas plants by providing technical know-how to the villagers. More such organisations coming actively forward to take the cause of women development should be encouraged.

Finally, some light should be shed on the extension programmes of Government and how much these functionaries interact with the womenfolk at the grass root level. This is important because such programmes form the exogeneous component of women's personality status outside the household.

5.5 Extension Programmes of Government and Women

The success of extension programmes of various government departments depends on the contacts made by personnel from these department at the grass roots level. In this context the question arises, (a) how do the officials interact at the village level? (b) whether the policy and programme of government have any bearing at the implementational level? and (c) how far womenfolk are aware about such programmes?

The knowledge and information about such programmes depends whether the government bureaucracy at the grass roots

level interacts with the village women and especially if they are women centred programmes and how much pain and initiative they take in conveying such information to the public. Clearly education and literacy have an important role to play in creating an awar ness about such departmental activities. In the absence of such a connecting bridge the programmes and policies lose their actual meaning and become merely wasteful exercises. However, the responsibility on both these fronts lies with the government and it could be squarely blamed for non-performance. On the basis of responses received by the investigators of this study as presented in Table 5.5, we have highlighted the level of contacts made by personnel of these government departments with the womenfolk of rural areas of the Himalayan region.

Regarding awareness of women respondents for the present it would be enough to say that with the exception of agriculture, in other departments like animal husbandry and horticulture, the response is lukeworm. It suggests that though economically they are more viable in terms of additional income and employment generation, yet either at the official level or at the level of women, a large communication gap continues to be maintained, leaving much scope, particularly at the former level towards promotion, extension and implementation of such government sponsored programmes and policies. With regard to social consumption goods, the contact response is again poor, pointing towards the need for providing the same with the most sincerest

intention if meaninfgul women development policies are to be implemented in future. Among the social consumption goods, education, health and family welfare are the most important but unfortunately same have been neglected if not quantitative then definitely in qualitative terms. Further, this policy package must be supplemented by infrastructural support.

Our survey data pertaining to the pattern of visits and interactions made by the officials of different government departments with womenfolk in the hill region revealed unhealthy and bleak picture from the point of view of promoting extension programmes. The departments listed in Table 5.5 are more concerned and closely related to rural women, especially in the hill region where the participation rate of women is maximum in all the activities. About 25.6 per cent respondents (women) reported that the officials from agriculture department have visited them regarding the extension programme in agriculture. The districtwise pattern was found more or less similar with 28.8 per cent respondents in district Chamoli and 22.8 per cent respondents in Pithoragarh reporting about such visits made by government officials. This shows either lack of interest among the extension workers of agriculture department in district Pithoragarh or the agricultural extension scheme receiving low priority in district Pithoragarh as compared to district Chamoli. In terms of policy, agricultural development is receiving some response from government department, but it

has still to make deep in roads into the agriculture based economy in terms of increasing productivity and income of both land and labour and also contribute towards reducing agricultural drudgery on human labour especially that of womenfolk and girl child.

The rural economy is supported by non-agricultural activities also which supplement the income resources generated from agricultural activity. The Himalayan economy is no exception to this rule but here the story ends on a sorry note. As noted in connection with occpational structure, much needs to be done to shift agricultural workers (womenfolk) to non-agricultural allied activities which would enhance the scope of both income and employment generation activities. This very fact of allied activities associated with agriculture receiving low priority becomes evident by a customary glance at the table. The level of respondents reporting visits of government personnel from animal husbandry and horticulture departments is found to be lukewarm. The pattern of contacts made by the personnel of both the departments was more or less the same. Thus, merely 2.7 per cent respondents reported the visits made by the personnel of horticulture department. However, in district Chamoli, about 3.1 per cent respondents have been contacted by the officials of horticulture department whereas this figure was 2.2 per cent in district Pithoragarh. This is a poor indicator of developmental effort at the government

level regarding the programmes and activities of the concerned department.

The same story is repeated once again as regards contacts made to womenfolk by the official of animal husbandry. Hardly 1.1 per cent respondents reported the visits of extension workers from the department of animal husbandry. This activity is a low key affair and benefits do not percolate to the grass root and remote villages. It has been observed that the personnel from government departments even do not make contacts with the male members in the villages. In remote villages, cases of non-work by such government personnel are frequent and resources earmarked for such purposes are misused by such personnel.

Hence any programme of government in future dates should make it a policy principle to give the widest possible level of communication both at propoganda and at working level to such schemes. Since from the working pattern of womenfolk, we have already gathered the fact that agriculture is associated with a high work participation rate of females. Assuming this work culture, sufficient ground exists to promote and accelerate the efforts of government departments in both horticulture and animal husbandry which is considered to be more productive, employment oriented and income generating activities in the hill region. Thus floriculture, mushroom cultivation, bee-keeping, sericulture and other activities of similar nature should be identified and efforts should be made to associate womenfolk with these activites.

When we analyse the data pertaining to the contacts made by the workers of different departments responsible for providing social infrastructural facilities in the rural areas it is found that women have been bye-passed by them. As far as adult education programme is concerned, about 2.3 per cent respondents have been contacted by the workers of the department. The level of response in district Chamoli was very low 0.7 per cent and this position was relatively better in district Pithoragarh. This analysis explains that the literacy and adult education programme have not even shown any trickle down effect, which is both a cause and result of such a low level of responses from the officials of the concerned departments.

Therefore, any kind of developmental oriented planning in future should take sufficient care to make the educational and literacy benefits to percolate to these backward areas so that the desired benefits may be realised by the womenfolk. The findings of the study strongly point out the need of a purposeful and result oriented education and adult literacy programme which can attack the twin problems of excess work burden and drudgery and also mould the personality of womenfolk so that they can enjoy improved work condition and status in the society.

It is also rather regretful that the health and family welfare which should receive top most priority, is given insufficient attention by the officials as evident with the

fact that about 19.2 per cent respondents reported the visits of personnel from medical and health departments. In the case of districtwise responses, this response was recorded 8.8 per cent in district Chamoli while it was 28.3 per cent in district Pithoragarh. However, the extension workers from family welfare department have visited relatively to a larger proportion of respondents. About 61.4 per cent respondents from all sample villages reported that the officials from family planning department have made contacts with them. We were told by the womenfolk in the villages that the workers from family planning department use to come for completing their assigned targets rather than making them aware about the family welfare programmes.

One can understand the level of success attained by women and child development department in percolating the benefits of different development programmes and welfare measures in the remote villages of the hill region with the pattern of interactions made by the officials of concerned department with the womenfolk. The proportion of respondents was only 10.2 per cent in aggregate who reported that the workers from women and child development department have visited them and made interactions. Keeping in view the fact that human productivity is both health and education related the extension programme related to education and health needs special qualitative targeting. This fact is gradually capturing the attention of development economists and policy makers. After examining the level of interactions between

government officials and the people on the one hand and the pattern of extension programme of department of education and health on the other, it seems impossible for government to provide health facility and education to all by 2000 AD.

The issues related to sanitation and environment are connected with health-care and education. Again poor response was found from the officials associated with sanitation and environment as merely 5.2 per cent respondents reported the visits made by the personnel of sanitation and environment department. Awareness among the womenfolk about the sanitation and environment has great role to play in improving the living conditions in rural areas. The womenfolk are directly connected with sanitation and environment in terms of being either loosers or gainers. The level of efforts made by the government personnel towards extension of welfare schemes meant for villages is evident by the pattern of contacts with the people in the remote villages of the hill region. Regarding agriculture, we can say that Himalayan agriculture continues to be backward and sometimes fails to provide the consumption basket even at subsistence level. This is due to particular nature of land, soil and climatic features. Agriculture is a problem area as the study suggests and there is an urgent need for a comprehensive agricultural policy which should look into the particular labour and resource requirement of the region and also address into the imbalances of occupational structures which have a significant bearing on income and employment

status of the household and as the source of agricultural drudgery of womenfolk of these regions.

Table 5.5 : Visits of Government Personnel and Pattern of Extension Programme

Officials of Government Departments	No. of Respondents Reporting Visits of Government Personnel		
	District Chamoli	District Pithoragarh	Total
Agriculture	46(28.8)	41(22.8)	87(25.6)
Horticulture	5(3.1)	4(2.2)	9(2.7)
Animal Husbandry	2(1.2)	2(1.1)	4(1.1)
Medical and Health	14(8.8)	51(28.3)	65(19.2)
Family Welfare	116(72.5)	93(51.7)	209(61.4)
Women & Child Development	22(13.8)	13(7.2)	35(10.2)
Sanitation & Environment	5(3.1)	13(7.2)	18(5.2)
Adult Education	1(0.7)	7(3.9)	8(2.3)

After visualising the status, awareness and level of participation of women in political activities and other socio-economic developmental programmes it become imperative to study the outlook and perception of womenfolk in the region. Because this outlook and perception of women is governed by her status and awareness to some extent and we take this exercise in the next Chapter.

CHAPTER VI

OUTLOOK AND PERCEPTION OF WOMEN IN THE RURAL AREAS OF UP HILLS

After having analysed the working pattern of womenfolk, the drudgery problem associated with it, their status in the family, level of political awareness among them and welfare measures initiated by government for the development of women in the rural areas of the hill region, now we will examine the overall outlook and perception of women. At the outset, it would be useful to point out that given the socio-cultural, socio-economic environment in which they live, males have a major say in deciding household matters and in the decision making process, even in the personal matters of females. Though it is good to see the values of joint family system still surviving upto the present times, yet little attention has been drawn towards the problem of womenfolk from their angle. Thus we see the interesting phenomena of husband supporting wife and family, yet he is unconcerned and unsympathetic towards the high work incidence and drudgery associated with her work.

Three important determinants sums up the entire problem of womenfolk viz. money, energy, and welfare. The problem of women development must be viewed in a much wider context as not only the problem of women at individual level but the problem of womenfolk within and outside the family. The development economists and the policy planners have only of late been addressing this wider role of womenfolk and are rightly synchronising the two, i.e. women's development and socio-economic development within the context of sustainable development. How much such a role has actually been given to the womenfolk within the regional context has been examined in the earlier Chapters. The scores of unanswered questions that remains burried can be summed up under the theme money, energy and welfare. The drudgery problem is a reflection of these major themes.

In fact, the problem of development of entire 'Uttarakhand Region' to borrow the word from its political jargon is at the uppermost. While political leaders and some vested interests have only focussed their attention on some power sharing and fiscal devolution arrangements, it is the duty of academicians and those who are concerned with the general well being of the masses particularly the womenfolk of this region to set the agenda in its proper perspective. The problem of income and employment generation has to proceed simultaneously with the sustainable development of man and nature, a theme which have been reiterated more in

theory but approached poorly when it comes to implementation. Since state's support is a prerequisite for funding and developing such welfare activity, it becomes the duty of the people's representatives to respect the voters wishes.

With talks of decentralisation and devolution of administrative, legislative and financial powers loud in the political circles and some states carrying the election process in line with the 72nd and 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, it remains to be seen how this gets implemented in U.P. Moreover the amendment provides for representation of females (30 per cent seats) and provision of backward castes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes also exists. How this overall arrangement works would become evident only after some time before any fruitful suggestion in this regard can be made.

The work burden on womenfolk has its seeds in the socio-cultural tradition and as already pointed out gender discrimination sits at the very root of such work allocation and distribution arrangement. This is highlighted in this Chapter under the title outlook and perception of rural women in the hill region. Woman is undoubtedly, the most productive unit in such a society and occupies a unique position by virtue of her productive power - both biological and relating to work. Yet when question relating to the improvement of her socio-economic condition and overall role and status, are asked much remains unanswered due to male biased social values. While socio-cultural values and ethics

take long time to change as they are non-economic parameter which do not require mere funding and state legislation can do little in this regard in terms of influencing the household behaviour yet some invisible work in the form of socio-economic investment can help in influencing such endogeneous value components.

With the rapid shifting scene in developmental literature from physical and financial development to human resource development, the right time has now come to approach this problem and view the entire problem from the angle of womenfolk. The womenfolk of hill region are a hard working lot and as already pointed out their average daily work routine covers a span of 16.49 hours in a day. The incidence and impact of work burden on an average working woman is high, and even the status and condition of most of the womenfolk is not what ought to be. Against the above background this chapter attempts to examine the overall outlook and perception of womenfolk which could be of some use in leading to a sensible policy strategy for their overall betterment. The theme of this chapter explores three principle areas : (a) outlook of women regarding worksharing between males and females of the family and the reasons for affirmative and negative responses; (b) their views regarding work competence among females as compared to males and reasons they assign for and against such arguments; and (c) their perception regarding the question of opportunities and discrimination and reasons behind their arguments. In due

course we will also examine (a) whether the womenfolk themselves make any such differentials between male and female child? and (b) what they think about their general status and condition within the family and in the society as compared to menfolk.

6.1 Women and Sharing of Domestic Work

The views of respondents regarding the sharing of domestic work between male members and female members have been presented in Table 6.1. With regard to work sharing, majority of the womenfolk were of the opinion that domestic work falls within their ambit and male members should be relieved of such burden. About 79.41 per cent respondents viewed that the responsibility of day to day domestic work is the job of females. However the opinion varied and ranged from 46.67 per cent (lowest) in village Kharkarki to 97.50 per cent (highest) in village Jhirkoti. The respondents advanced three sets of arguments to support their view. About 48.52 per cent of such respondents were of the view that males enjoyed superior status in the society, therefore they should not be held responsible for doing all the domestic work. Another 29.26 per cent of such respondents were of the view that since male members are bread earners and decision makers, therefore they should get relieved from doing domestic day to day work as it was ill suited to their

status. Since males are involved in risk bearing occupations they should not devote their attention towards domestic work and this view was advanced by 22.22 per cent of the respondents who did not favour such equal responsibility of domestic work. The analysis revealed that the level of women's personality is still moulded in the traditional socio-cultural setting where male enjoys a higher status than woman in all walk of life. The opinion expressed by the respondents indicates the backwardness of women in terms of their outlook and perception. However, some 20.59 per cent respondents did not support this thesis and were bold enough to advance the view that male members should share equal responsibility in performing household work. There was no uniformity in the proportions of such respondents in the sample villages as evident with data presented in Table 6.1. The forward outlook and perception regarding work responsibility was assigned two reasons : (i) both male and female are equal by birth; and (ii) material benefits are distributed in unequal proportions between males and females, so the males should share the work responsibility. That material benefits are shared by males at a relatively higher proportion was viewed by 90.54 per cent of such respondents. Therefore, male members should share equal responsibility in household work. Another 9.46 per cent of the respondents were of the view that by birth male and female are equal and therefore it logically followed that they should share equal responsibility.

Table 6.1 : Views of Respondents About Sharing of Domestic Work Between Male and Female Members

Name of Village	Whether Males should be equally responsible for day to day domestic work?		Reasons for Yes		Reasons for No		
	Yes	No	Both Males & females are equal by birth	Material benefits are shared relatively more by males	Males are superior in status in the society	Males are bread earners & decision makers	Males involvement in risk bearing occupation
Panneygaon	25.00	75.00	6.25	93.75	50.00	26.66	23.34
Baragaon	27.50	72.50	5.71	94.29	41.38	34.48	24.10
Langasu	10.00	90.00	12.00	88.00	50.00	27.78	22.22
Jhirkoti	2.50	97.50	7.14	92.86	48.72	30.77	20.51
Chaura Rajpur	15.56	84.44	9.30	90.70	55.26	26.32	18.42
Kharkarki	33.33	66.67	15.91	84.09	46.66	33.33	20.01
Devat	22.22	77.78	11.36	88.64	48.57	28.57	22.86
Chhana	26.67	73.33	6.67	93.33	45.46	27.27	27.27
All Villages	20.59	79.41	9.46	90.54	48.52	29.26	22.22

The above analysis indicates that the outlook and perception of around 80 per cent respondents was found to be backward, showing them to be still wedded to the traditional socio-cultural environment which offers little scope for their personality development. These womenfolk were prepared for a secondary status as they considered their male

counterparts superior in status. Some amount of drudgery could be associated to this factor though this magnitude can not be quantified.

6.2 Work Competence Among Women

The analysis of data regarding the opinion of respondents towards their work competence in comparison to their menfolk revealed that about 85.00 per cent viewed themselves to be equal to males, while only 15.00 per cent respondents viewed themselves to be less competent as compared to their male counterparts. However variations have been observed in the proportions of the respondents in the sample villages about their opinion as far as work competence among females as compared to menfolk is concerned. Data pertaining to opinion of respondents regarding work competence among them and the reasons given in this regard is presented in Table 6.2. Mainly two reasons have been quoted by the respondents in favour of their view regarding equal competence among them as compared to males as given under :

(i) That females are equally competent in performing all kinds of activities was viewed by 61.81 per cent of respondents. The womenfolk are doing hard work in their day to day lives is evident from daily work routine of 16.49 hours. This work involves activities both within and outside the house. (ii) Another argument reported by 38.19 per cent

of the respondents was that the females are participating in all kinds of activities whether outdoor or the indoor, and have been engaged in this work very successfully for years. They are, therefore, not behind the males in any walk of life.

Table 6.2 : Views of the Respondents About the Competence Among Females as Compared to Males

Name of Village	No.of Respondents in the sample	Whether Females were as competent as males		Arguments for Yes		Argument for No	
		Yes	No	Females can do equally hard-work	Females are participating in all work	Lack of decision power & work discretion among females	Females are by nature weak & less competent
Panneygaon	40	77.50	22.50	61.29	38.71	66.67	33.33
Baragaon	40	82.50	17.50	66.67	33.33	85.71	14.29
Langasu	40	72.50	27.50	75.86	24.14	72.73	27.27
Jhirkati	40	85.00	15.00	55.88	44.12	83.33	16.67
Chaura Rajpur	45	82.22	17.78	72.97	27.03	62.50	37.50
Kharkarki	45	95.56	4.44	58.14	41.86	100.00	-
Devat	45	95.56	4.44	51.16	48.84	50.00	50.00
Chhana	45	84.44	15.56	57.89	42.11	71.43	28.57
All Villages	340	84.71	15.56	61.81	38.19	71.15	28.85

However, the responses of about 15.00 per cent respondents showed that they considered their male

counterparts to be more competent. The respondents have given two main reasons to support their views. Due to lack of decision making power and work discretion enjoyed by them, the females are relatively less competent in performing certain tasks as compared to males. This view was expressed by 71.15 per cent of the respondents who viewed that males are more competent than females. The females are biologically weak and not able to compete with the males was viewed by 28.85 per cent of the respondents. Once again the poor outlook of women (respondents) due to various factors like illiteracy, ignorance and traditional background which lead to an inferior and subordinate status to them in the society became evident from the examination of this question.

6.3 Equal Opportunities and Women

We now examine what womenfolk have to say about opportunities. The term opportunities implies equal access in education, employment and other economic activities without any male biasness. The responses gathered from the respondents in sample villages revealed that about 46.47 per cent respondents were not provided equal opportunities in education, employment and other economic activities. Looking at the village-wise responses, it is found that the proportion of respondents was highest 73.33 per cent in village Devat of Pithoragarh district who were denied equal opportunities in education and economic matters. On the

other hand, this proportion was recorded lowest 20 per cent in village Panneygaon in Chamoli district. The respondents have advocated three basic reasons for not extending equal opportunities to females as presented in Table 6.3. The

Table 6.3 : Views of the Respondents About Equal Opportunities in Education, Employment and Other Economic Activities

Name of Village	No.of Respondents in the sample	% of Respondents who were of the view that Females are not given equal opportunities	Reasons for it		
			Due to Social custins & traditions prevailing in the society	Lack of freedom & independent status to females	Secondary status of Females
Panneygaon	40	20.00	25.00	50.00	25.00
Baragaon	40	67.50	88.89	7.41	3.70
Langasu	40	70.00	64.29	7.14	28.57
Jhirkoti	40	40.00	37.50	50.00	12.50
Chaura Rajpur	45	44.45	65.00	15.00	20.00
Kharkarki	45	24.44	54.56	18.18	27.26
Devat	45	73.33	60.61	30.30	9.09
Chhana	45	33.33	66.67	33.33	-
All Villages	340	46.47	62.66	22.78	14.56

prevailing social customs and traditions offer a secondary role to womenfolk in society and thus independent status and economic freedom are denied to them. This statement sums up

the three reasons given separately by the respondents. We present the reasons as we received from the womenfolk. (i) About 62.66 per cent of the respondents who advocated discriminations being made against women, were of the view that due to social customs and traditions the women are not given equal opportunities in education, employment and economic activities. (ii) Lack of economic freedom and independent status to women is also one of the reasons for unequal opportunities in employment, and education as viewed by 22.78 per cent of the respondents. Illiteracy and ignorance are the root causes for low status of womenfolk in the society. (iii) The females are assigned secondary role in the society as a result discriminations are made against them and therefore, they are denied equal opportunities in education, employment and economic activities. This reason was advocated by 14.56 per cent of the respondents.

The improved status and condition of women can be possible only when the economic and educational status of women undergoes a fundamental transformation. This is possible through effective state intervention in infrastructural sectors which are at the very root of the problem combined with special women specific development oriented plans and schemes. Some changes in the status of women within the family structure also collected for. The above analysis regarding the views of respondents about the equal opportunities highlightes the fact that womenfolk are still strongly wedded to the social customs and traditions

which has the merit of binding the family together but the demerit of not advocating the women's cause strongly. The awareness response and positive outlook were mostly found among the educated respondents as revealed by this study.

6.4 Discrimination against Women

The views of respondents were also analysed relating to discrimination against women. Data pertaining to views of respondents regarding discrimination revealed that about 49.12 per cent respondents expressed discrimination. Table 6.4 presents the views of respondents about discrimination against females and its causes. In the individual sample villages, the proportion of respondents was highest 75.56 per cent in village Devat who reported that discriminations are made against females in most of the spheres of life. However, it was also 20.00 per cent respondents in village Kharkarki who reported about such discrimination.

Three basic reasons emerged behind the causes of such discrimination. Lack of education among females, lack of independent economic status and physically weak character of the females. An analysis of the reason given by the respondents revealed lack of education among females as the fundamental cause of such differences as viewed by 53.29 per cent of the respondents who reported such discrimination. Another important cause mentioned by 29.94 per cent

respondents for being discriminated by males is the lack of independent employment and economic status among women, which curtails their discretion and decision making power and subordinates them to the males. The third cause advanced by a few respondents for exploitation and discrimination was physical weakness of females. This view was shared by 16.77 per cent of the respondents.

Table 6.4 : Views of the Respondents About the Discrimination Against Females

Name of Village	% of Respondents who viewed that discriminations are made against females	Causes of Discrimination as viewed by the Respondents		
		Lack of education among females	Lack of Employment and independent economic status	Females are thought physically weak
Panneygaon	32.30	61.54	23.08	15.38
Baragaon	69.00	57.69	26.92	15.38
Langasu	70.00	60.71	32.14	7.15
Jhirkoti	55.00	54.54	36.36	9.10
Chaura Rajour	44.44	55.00	35.00	10.00
Kharkarki	20.00	67.67	22.22	11.11
Devat	75.56	44.12	29.41	26.47
Chhana	33.33	33.33	26.67	40.00
All Villages	49.12	53.29	29.94	16.77

From the above analysis regarding discrimination against women as viewed by the respondents, the following interpretat-

tions can be gathered : (i) the main cause of discrimination is inequality in educational access to females as a result of which they can not cultivate an independent outlook and perception of their own; (ii) not only education is unfavourable towards them, they are also denied their due share in employment and income earning activities which could otherwise make their domestic bargaining power stronger. Some respondents argued that while the benefits of some government programmes are available to menfolk, yet no such schemes exists for their benefits; (iii) some respondents whose number was not very large attributed their physical weakness as the factor behind discrmination. Thus, the main conclusion that emerges is : some form of discrimination against females exist in majority of the households as revealed from the responses of the respondents. Two factors have emerged from the responses for ameliorating their lot (a) promotion of education through adult literacy programmes; and (b) providing gainful employment to them. This can help in raising their status within the family and in the society.

6.5 Views of Respondents Towards their Male and Female Children

A related question to further judge their outlook and perception was asked from the respondents: whether they (women) made any differential between male and female child in their own families, and if so, then what reasons they

attribute for such differential? Whether they extend any preference to male children in matters relating to food, education, clothing, pocket money, medicine and entertainment?

The analysis of the responses gathered from respondents as presented in Table 6.5 revealed that differential between male and female child was made by a minority of (13.53 per cent) the respondents. A majority (86.47 per cent) of the respondents were broad minded in this regard and were found to be indifferent towards the sex of their child. The villagewise responses, however, indicated a variation in this regard. This proportion of respondents was found to be highest 20.00 per cent in village Chhana and lowest 6.67 per cent in village Chaura Rajpur. When asked to specify the cause for such differential, three reasons emerged, viz. (i) male children are superior to female children; (ii) male children are future bread-earners; and (iii) female children are others property as they get married in their life time and is a liability to parents as such.

About 47.83 per cent of the respondents who made such differential, were of the view that male child was superior in status than female child and, therefore, they gave preference to him. About 32.69 per cent of the respondents shared the view that male children are the future bread earners of their families and potential supporters of parents in old age. Another 19.56 per cent respondents thought female child to be the property of other persons as they will

move out from their families after marriage. Thus the investment on female children carried no returns for them.

Table 6.5 : Respondents and Differentials Between Male Child and Female Child

Name of Village	Respondents who make differentials between male and female children	Reasons for Making Differentials		
		Male Children are superior than female children	Male Children will become bread-earners	Female Children are others property
Panneygaon	12.50	80.00	20.00	-
Baragaon	15.00	66.66	16.67	16.67
Langasu	15.00	50.00	33.33	16.67
Jhirkoti	17.50	42.86	14.28	42.86
Chaura Rajpur	6.67	66.67	33.33	-
Kharkarki	8.89	25.00	50.00	25.00
Devat	13.33	33.33	50.00	16.67
Chhana	20.00	33.33	44.44	22.23
All Villages	13.53	47.83	32.61	19.56

The discriminatory attitude of respondents with variations was found in all the sample villages irrespective of their social stratra. However, most of the educated respondents (women) did not fall into this category showing that education has its positive impact on their outlook. Perhaps it was economic and opportunity considerations which

forced some respondents to have discriminatory outlook. The migration pattern also support this hypothesis, where male members are given an outright preference in employment and education. The study revealed that preference was given to the male children by some respondents even in basic needs and services. Items like food, clothes, education, medicine, pocket money and entertainemnt were the main goods and services in which the discrimination was made against female children at distribution level. However, there has been variation in the magnitude of the preferences. The above analysis regarding the discriminatory attitude of respondents against their own female children highlights the economic limitations of the households on the one hand and the ignorance among the women folk on the other.

On gender discrimination, the World Bank publications says that in some areas of South Asian countries, gender-specific abuse is common, including sex selection through abortion, female infanticide and injury and death associated with wife abuse and dowry demands. Other forms of discrimination, such as giving less food to female household members, restricting their access to health services and imposing more physical work on girls and women are also common. A recent policy report prepared by the World Bank expert panel stresses that investing in women's progress, instead of in men's affairs, leads to proportionately greater development. Since woman is a mother, her education and sagacity has a greater impact on the stability and the

economy of the family and on the health and culture of her children. Whenever the domestic finances are under the control of women, they are more economically and rationally managed.

A majority of womenfolk are at the receiving end right from the time of their birth. Discrimination against them is observed in all walks of life, the magnitude, however, varies according to the personality, role and status enjoyed within the family and outside. Under pressures and force of traditional, cultural and historical factors, women have been ignored and denied opportunites for participating in the process of development and sharing its benefits. Despite the high status of women during vedic period, gender bias is entrenched deeply in the cultural heritage of not only India but also in other societies globally. Gender bias is a part of social value system which has roots within the family.

6.6 General Status and Condition of Women

So far we have analysed the views of respondents about sharing of the domestic work between males and females, their outlook regarding work competance among women, their opinion regarding opportunities in education and economic activities and their feeling towards differentials between males and females. Now we will examine the perception of womenfolk regarding their general status and condition as compared to menfolk. The respondents were asked whether their status and

condition in the society is much lower, low or equal as compared to their male counterparts. Data presented in Table 6.6 revealed that the respondents constituted about 32.36 per cent in the total sample of 340 respondents who came out with the conclusion that the status and condition of females is very low in comparison to their male counterparts. The

Table 6.6 : Views of the Respondents About General Status and Condition of Females as Compared to Males

Name of Village	No. of Respon-dents in the sample	General Status and Condition of Females as compared to Males		
		Very Low	Low	Equal
Panneygaon	40	12 (30.00)	25 (62.50)	3 (7.50)
Baragaon	40	20 (50.00)	18 (45.00)	2 (5.00)
Langasu	40	15 (37.50)	24 (60.00)	1 (2.50)
Jhirkoti	40	15 (37.50)	19 (47.50)	6 (15.00)
Chaura Rajpur	45	18 (40.00)	26 (57.78)	1 (2.22)
Kharkarki	45	10 (22.22)	25 (55.56)	10 (22.22)
Devat	45	7 (15.56)	37 (82.22)	1 (2.22)
Chhana	45	13 (28.89)	31 (68.89)	1 (2.22)
All Villages	340	110 (32.36)	205 (60.29)	25 (7.35)

proportion of respondents was 60.29 per cent who viewed that their general status and condition is low. However, 7.35 per cent respondents perceived themselves to be equal to the male members as far as general status and condition is concerned.

The sample villages have shown variations in the proportions of respondents rating themselves in comparison to males regarding the general status and condition. The proportion of respondents was recorded highest 50 per cent in village Baragaon and lowest 15.56 per cent in village Devat who ranked their condition and status as very low in comparison to males. While the respondents who viewed that their general status and condition is equal to males constituted highest 22.22 per cent in village Kharkarki and lowest in villages Devat and Chhana.

The analysis of views given by the respondents (women) about their general status and condition in the society as compared to their male counterparts is a testimony of the inferior status and poor conditions of the rural womenfolk in the hill region. More than 92.00 per cent respondents perceived their status and condition to be low in the society. The foregoing analysis proves beyond doubt that on the whole the general status of the rural womenfolk in the hill region is rather low and they are subjected to subordination by their male counterparts. This analysis also brings out quite clearly that women are discriminated against in all spheres and are denied equal opportunity in education, employment and other economic activities. The poor outlook and low perception among women can be traced to the high incidence of drudgery and relative inaccessibility to facilities of education as well as earning.

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The "Indepth Study on the Working Pattern, Problems and Drudgery of Womenfolk in Uttar Pradesh Hills" sponsored by Uttarakhand Development Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh was carried out by the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow. The study is based on an intensive field survey of 340 women respondents selected from four villages in district Chamoli of Garhwal Division and four villages in district Pithoragarh of Kumaon division. The sample of households from where women were selected was drawn on the basis of stratified random sampling.

The socio-economic profile of the Hill region is based on secondary data from the published official sources of the State Government. The geographical features of the region present an undulating topography, non-uniformity in agro-climatic conditions, wide variations in altitude, rainfall, vegetation, soil structure, density of population and a large forest cover as a result of which there is an immense presence on agriculture land. Further this makes the land

unhospitable for agriculture which ~~serves~~ as a source of livelihood for a majority of people. The Hill region of Uttar Pradesh comprises an area of 51,125 sq. kms. constituting 17.98 per cent of the state's area and inhabits a population of 59.27 lakhs (4.26 per cent of the state's population). Thus the density works out to 116 persons per sq. km. in comparison to 473 for the state. About 78.30 per cent of the total population of the region resides in 15166 villages. The average growth rate of population according to 1991 Census was 2.25 per cent per annum. The sex-ratio in the region is 955 females per 1000 males as against state's average of 879 which must not mislead one into making hasty conclusions with regard to women's policy. The SC and ST population of the region is 16.70 per cent and 3.54 per cent respectively as compared to 21.00 per cent and 0.70 per cent for the state.

The level of literacy in the region is higher than the state for both males and females as well as the average, being 75.51 per cent for males, 42.67 per cent for females and 59.58 per cent for the region, compared to 55.73 per cent, 25.31 per cent and 41.60 per cent for state respectively. As against this, the literacy rates for the rural areas works out to 36.55 per cent in the region in comparison to 19.09 per cent for the state. The female literacy rate in the rural areas is substantially higher in

the region as compared to the state. The percentage of main workers in the population is higher in the Hill region as compared to the state average, being 36.33 per cent in the Hill region and 29.00 per cent in the state. The proportion of main workers in the population is higher in the Hill region as compared to the state average, being 36.33 per cent in the Hill region and 29.00 per cent in the state. The proportion of main workers in the total population is also higher in all the districts of the region as compared to the state average. The important characteristic of the hill districts is the presence of a substantial high proportion of female workers in the workforce which at first glance may present a false picture. actually it reflects the hard economic life of the womenfolk of the region. The women are engaged in low productivity activities in the primary sector comprising of a backward stagnant agricultural sector where male participation and agricultural labours are not to the extent as in the plain regions of U.P. The work participation rate among females is substantially higher (25.62 per cent) as compared to state's average (7.45 per cent). On the contrary, the opposite picture is available as regards male workers constituting 46.61 per cent of their population which is comparatively lower than 49.31 per cent for the state. However, the marginal wolrkers are 1.72 per cent among males and 9.73 per cent among females in the Hill region as compared to 0.36 per cent among males and 4.87 per cent among females in the state.

The main source of occupation and livelihood in the Hill region is agriculture and about 65 per cent of the total main workers are engaged in agriculture. In the total main workers, cultivators constitute 62.77 per cent in the region as against 52.26 per cent in the state. The proportion of agricultural labourers to total main workers is 6.40 per cent in the hill region and 18.94 per cent in the state. The agriculture in the hill region is largely a women's job and the participation of men is confined only to a few selected operations. About 93 per cent of the female workers are engaged in agricultural sector. In the household industries, less than one per cent main workers are engaged. The workers engaged in other activities in the region constituted 34.6 per cent of the main workers which is higher than the state's average. However, the proportion of female main workers is lower in the hill region who are classified as other workers. The low status of women workers can be noticed from their pitifull low percentage figure in better paid non-agricultural occupations. There has been concentration of female workers in agricultural sector in those districts of the hill region where the literacy rate is lower among the females in rural areas.

The total reported area of the hill region is 5358.6 thousand hectares, out of which 63.92 per cent area is under forest cover. The land area under cultivation is only 12.49 per cent of the total reporting area in comparison to 58 per cent in the state. In such a limited area it is but natural

to see agriculture of subsistence nature being practiced as is evident from the fact that 85 per cent of the total cropped area falls under foodgrains.

Taking together all the districts of Hill region, about 34.91 per cent of net area sown is irrigated as against 60.32 per cent in the state. When the figures related to irrigated areas of districts Nainital and Dehradun are separated from the irrigated areas of rest of the hill districts, the irrigated areas varies from 5.37 per cent in district Chamoli to 15.25 per cent in Uttarkashi. Due to lack of irrigation facilities in hill districts, the level of chemical fertilizer consumption in agriculture is extremely low. The average yield rate of foodgrains is slightly lower in the region compared to state's average.

The average size of land holding in hill region is 0.95 hectares which is slightly larger than in the state (0.93 hect.). The marginal and small holdings (below 2 hect.) constitute about 87.68 per cent of the operated holdings in hill region with 50.4 per cent of the total cultivated area. The per canita consumption of electricity is 174 kwh. in hill region in comparison to 179.4 kwh in the state. About 75 per cent villages are electrified in the region with a variations in the districts. As far as water supply for domestic consumption is concerned some 75 per cent villages have still to look for a regular supply of this utility.

The industrial base at present is unsatisfactory with the exception of districts Nainital and Dehradun. Thus, the occupational structure presents a backward agricultural sector with a premature tertiary sector. This gap needs to be filled in the future taking ecological and environmental issues also into consideration. Yet a high value of per capita net product is available in the region from the commodity producing sector and also its forest wealth. Though the development indicators rank the region among one of the developed regions in the state, low standard of living, hardship of life, dearth of investment and capital formation, low level of consumption, unemployment, poverty and high cost of living tell the story of its backwardness.

Since the inception of planning for the region (from Third Five Year Plan) when it caught the notice of government and got special status from both Central and State Governments, funds started pouring in and covered areas such as agriculture and rural sector, transport, housing, education, power and public utilities services. But yet much has not come in terms of improvement in productivity of the people in the region as a result the micro behaviour of households reflect the drudgery of common womenfolk. The factors like, population pressure, lack of arable land, absence of infrastructure, dearth of entrepreneurship, overall dearth of adequate investment in various economic spheres, lack of diversification of economy, subsistence character of agriculture have kept the region in continued

backwardness and this has resulted in the failure of the economy to accommodate the growing labourforce which leads to outmigration (mainly among male members) of various forms. The migration of male members has also added other responsibilities on femal members which has further increased the drudgery problem of the womenfolk.

It would be appropriate to look into the socio-economic profile of districts Chamoli and Pithoragarh which were the sample districts chosen for our study and from where the selection of villages was made. The socio-economic characteristics of the sample districts, based on data from secondary sources, indicate that these districts are basically rural, with agriculture as a main source of occupation. This is also true in respect of the sample villages.

As already mentioned district Chamoli in Garhwal division has an area of 9168 sq. kms. and district Pithoragarh in Kumaon division has an area of 8856 sq. kms. They account for 17.93 per cent and 17.36 per cent of the area of hill region and have the population of 4.55 lakhs and 5.66 lakhs respectively which is 7.68 per cent and 9.56 per cent of total population of the hill region. The rural population is 91.06 per cent and 92.57 per cent in these districts which live in 1569 and 2186 villages of the respective districts. The density of population is 50 persons per sq. km. in district Chamoli and 64 persons in

district Pithoragarh as against 116 persons for the hill region as a whole. The sex ratio is 1003 for Chamoli and 785 in Pithoragarh.

The rate of literacy in the two districts is 61.08 per cent and 59.01 per cent respectively against 59.28 per cent of the hill region. The literacy rate among males is higher than both the regions and the state. The female literacy rate is 40.37 per cent in Chamoli district and 38.37 per cent in Pithoragarh which is lower than the average of the hill region, however, it is higher than the literacy rate of females in the state. The percentage of main workers in both the districts (40.32 per cent and 41.03 per cent) is higher than the average of the region as well as the state. The sex-wise work participation rate gives peculier pattern. The proportion of main workers in the male population is lower in both the districts as compared to the region and the state. However, the female work participation rate is quite high in both the districts. There is also similar trend as far as marginal workers are concerned.

Agriculture is a women's job as proved by the high percentage of women workers engaged in agriculture in both the districts as well as in the hill region. The female workers engaged in agriculture constitute 96.0 per cent in district Chamoli and 95.4 per cent in Pithoragarh as against 92.7 per cent in the hill region and 84.03 per cent in the state as a whole. The land holdings are small, fragmented and scattered thus uneconomic and are the major source of

subsistence agriculture which results in high incidence of agricultural drudgery on women'folk. The non-agricultural activities are few and do not absorb much of the surplus household workers - male or female. The household industries are not developed in these districts also. About 1.1 per cent of the main workers in district Chamoli and 1.6 per cent in district Pithoragarh are engaged in household industries which is lower figure than the state's average.

The land use pattern shows a low forest cover in both the districts as compared to the hill region. The percentage of net area under cultivation to the total reporting area is also lower in these districts as compared to the region and the state. The irrigated area as a proportion of total cropped area is merely 2.5 per cent in district Chamoli and 6.6 per cent in Pithoragarh as against 20.93 per cent in hill region and 43.36 per cent in the state. The poor state of agriculture in these districts is further evident by the fact that the size of land holdings is lower than the region and the state. The number of marginal and small holdings constitutes 92.7 per cent in district Chamoli and 95.5 per cent in Pithoragarh. The gross value of agricultural produce per hectare is also low in these districts. Even the consumption of modern inputs is low due to poor extension of agricultural facilities. Thus, they affect both land and labour productivity. The level of basic infrastructural facilities in these districts is very low and this has been one of the basic reasons for its economic backwardness in

general and weak industrial base in particular. The constraints to development primarily lies in the geo-physical conditions of the region that limit all the efforts to develop the area and its economy.

A total of 340 sample households from eight villages were chosen for the study from representative districts of Chamoli and Pithoragarh in the Hill region. From each sample household one woman was selected for detailed survey. The salient feature of respondents and their households indicate that the families of 340 respondents (women) in the sample had a population of 1618 with an average size of family 4.76 members. The sex ratio was found to be 1005 females per thousand of males, thus males comprised 49.88 per cent of population as compared to 50.12 per cent for females. The workforce (age group 19-59 years) in the sample households constituted 47.47 per cent in the total population. The analysis of data regarding the education of the family members of the sample households revealed that 30.35 per cent of the total population was illiterate. The educational level of 19.46 per cent population was High School and above. Among the female population, about 43.52 per cent were found illiterate. About 8.69 per cent females were High School and above.

As regards the housing structure, 90 per cent were pucca houses, but the accommodation was found to be insufficient for family members. Thus 3.76 rooms were shared by 4.76

members. It was found that in most of the cases, there were no separate kitchen in the houses. The livestock pattern indicated that on an average 3.94 livestock was reared by a household although there were villagewise variations. The average value of per livestock computed was Rs.2247.

The number of working population in the sample households was found 47.52 per cent of the total population who were engaged in different occupations. About three-fourth of the working population was cultivators with only 1.43 per cent as agricultural labourers. Some 6.76 per cent were wage earners and 4.82 per cent were engaged in petty business. Another 8.45 per cent working population was employed in government or semi-government jobs. Thus a premature service sector supported by a backward agricultural sector became evident in confirmity to the broad occupational structure of hill economy. The potential of secondary and tertiary sectors has to be exploited fully in order to raise the income and employment avenues as emerged from both the micro and macro economic behaviour pattern of the region.

The income structure which emerged from an analysis of the data collected from sample villages revealed that the per household annual income was found to be Rs.16498 and per capita income worked out to Rs.3467 with a variations in the sample villages. Agriculture was the major source of household income and it contributed about 37 per cent of the total household income. The second source of household income was services. As we have mentioned that migration of

able-bodied men is the basic characteristic of the population in the region. The sample households surveyed also revealed that about 17.86 per cent of the household income, generated outside, is contributed by remittances. The overall pattern of household income highlights that a backward agricultural sector and an equally under developed tertiary sector was supporting the household economy. The study found that abaout 40 per cent of the total households in the sample were below poverty line as their annual income was recorded less than Rs.11000.

The report of the study is based on the detailed survey of 340 women selected from the sample households. The analysis of data pertaining to age distribution of the women (respondents) revealed that the age-group of 21 to 35 years was the major group in which there were 47.65 per cent respondents. The second major group of respondents was 36 to 50 years which accounted 38.82 per cent. The respondents constituted 12.65 per cent who were above 50 years of age. However, the age of any respondent was not above 56 years in the sample.

The educational level of the women (respondents) in the sample revealed that over 58 per cent were illiterate and the education of 28.53 per cent women was upto primary level. The women whose education was Junior High School constituted 7.94 per cent in the total sample. Taking all the respondents together, it was found that the educational level

of 0.88 per cent was graduate. The educational level of the respondents indicates that there is dearth of educational infrastructure for females in the villages and the need of educational infrastructure has to be seen in the light of the fact that women's education needs to be given a special focus. Further the vocational training and employment oriented schemes need to be launched so that skills and gainful employment may be encouraged.

In the rural areas of U.P. Hills, the participation of women in household and non-household activities is substantially higher than the male workers. The working pattern of womenfolk and work burden on them was calculated in simplest manner, i.e., according to daily hours devoted towards routine activities, viz. outdoor work, indoor work and work of recreational and leisurely nature. In this context the study found an average working period of 16.49 hours computed for both the districts, and for districts Chamoli and Pithoragarh, this routine period of work were 15.84 hours and 17.08 hours respectively. The women participate in almost all the agricultural operations while the participation of male member was confined to limited operations in agriculture. The per day work disposal of womenfolk according to outdoor, indoor and recreational activities indicated that about 62.17 per cent of total work was devoted for outdoor activities, 21.11 per cent for indoor activities and 8.72 per cent for recreational activities. The outdoor activities were highly time consuming and about

10.25 hours out of total daily work of 16.49 hours was absorbed towards their performance. Work related to agriculture and livestock consumed about 29.35 per cent of total women's time. The study found that fuel and fodder collection (which is solely a women's job) and water fetching was associated with drudgery problem for womenfolk because these activities required travelling long distances for their procurement. The procurement of fuel, fodder and water absorbed 5.41 hours in a day, registering about 32.80 per cent of total time.

A considerable amount of seasonal variation was observed in the working pattern of womenfolk and hours of daily routine work. While the work in winter and summer seasons was 16.05 hours and 16.25 hours, i.e. below the average of 16.49 hours computed, that of rainy season was found to be 17.19 hours. Thus, the workload on rural women during rainy season was recorded 7.10 per cent more than the workload of winter season and 5.78 per cent more than that of summer season. Village-wise variations in the hours of daily work devoted by the womenfolk in different activities were recorded. Generally, the work load on womenfolk or hours of their daily work is governed by several factors such as, family size, family composition, land holding size, number of animals, distance of forests and water sources, level of education among women, number of children and aged persons and number of adult female members in the family.

Variations were also recorded in the hours of work of women in the migrant households and non-migrant households. It was observed that migration of male members caused increased work burden on womenfolk of such households. Both indoor and outdoor work burden increased as additional activities had to be performed to replace that potential source of labour. The study revealed that a women in migrant household had to devote about 4.80 per cent more time than the woman of non-migrant household. About one-third households fall under the migrant category. Though the family members receive money in the form of remittances from the migrants which increases the purchasing power of such families and enhances the assets formation but it is at the cost of increased work burden on the womenfolk.

Education was found to considerably influence the working pattern and the hours of work as became evident from the fact that educated women devoted lesser amount of working hours to daily activities as compared to illiterate women. Thus, the span of daily work ranged from 17.00 hours for illiterate respondents to 13.33 hours for graduate respondents. A direct relationship of less drudgery and work burden with increasing access to primary, secondary and higher education became strongly evident. The working pattern revealed that education contributed women's status within the family in terms of work load related to dey to day activities.

The work load on womenfolk is also determined by the number of adult female members in the family. The study revealed that per woman hours of daily work was recorded lower in the households where the number of adult females were higher. The work load varied from 16.95 hours with one female adult in the family to 13.00 hours with four adult females.

The collection of fuelwood, fodder and water fetching require not only hard physical labour but also a long distance is to be covered in performing these activities. About 80 per cent of the work related to these activities is performed by womenfolk in the hill region. Due to depletion of forest cover as a result of commercial and indiscriminate exploitation of forests, the drudgery on womenfolk has increased. It is found that in more than 76 per cent cases the women have to cover distances of over 5 kms. for collecting fuelwood and fodder. However, some relief was observed in the case of fetching water as in some villages water has been provided by Jal Nigam. Given the hilly terrain, the severe cold conditions, the rainy season and the danger of wild animals the problem of fuelwood and fodder collection can well be understood.

The analysis of time taken and distance covered by womenfolk indicated that the process of deforestation has increased the drudgery of womenfolk. Whether it is the procurement of fodder, collection of fuelwood, or fetching of

water, the direct burden falls on the womenfolk in the hill region since these activities are mostly performed by women showing the close relationship between forests and women.

The process of development has no meaning, unless women are fully integrated in the development process. The goals of our national policy extend full support and emphasize equal participation of women in all walks of life. However, women are not being fully considered as a potential human resource and have been marginalised in terms of benefits from the development programmes. The development of women can occur subject to the condition that the outlook and perception which marginalise women's role in the society are eliminated. The status and awareness of women play a significant role in the social transformation. However, the status and awareness of women is determined by their education and economic environment. The education of women is governed by economic, social, political and cultural factors. Moreover it is the government which can influence all the factors responsible for women's education, status and awareness.

The status of women starts from the household where she takes birth, grows and lives and thus accordingly her outlook and perceptions are influenced. Our study revealed a high work participation of womenfolk in all activities, i.e., household and non-household. As far as domestic status was concerned we noted a considerable educational gap

contributing to the secondary status of womenfolk. This was in addition to various traditional and socio-cultural norms which she had to practice. Keeping in view the socio-economic background of womenfolk and the work drudgery on them in the rural hills we tried to examine the status of women in the family, behaviour of family members towards them, the level of their political consciousness, level and extent of their participation in women centred development programmes and the pattern of general awareness among them. On the basis of responses obtained from respondents (women), the study found that in 42.84 per cent cases, the females were asked about their views by the heads of households in major domestic decision making processes, such as, sale and purchase of land, children's education, marriage settlement, house construction, purchase of consumer durables, sale of agricultural produce, sale and purchase of livestock and other matters. The work burden on females and their contribution to such work in rural areas of hill region is very high and significant. In this regard, majority of the respondents (women) reported that their work and contribution in the family was recognised by the family members. However, in majority of the cases, the financial matter related to household were handled by the male members as well as the economic decisions except such households where women members were heads of households. The institutional saving of women was found in those households from which migration of male members had taken place. Though some respondents reported personal (pocket) money with them, however, they were not

allowed to spend without consulting heads of households. In few households, incidence of female harassment by family members also came into notice. Though the bulk of the work load relating to home and farm activities are performed by womenfolk in the rural areas but in some households the domestic work was assigned to women by the head of household and the disposal of their time was also regulated by the head. The women feel humiliated when their work get unnecessarily checked or regulated.

Due to lack of independent economic status and income generating resources she was further marginalised and in poor bargaining position within the household. However, the condition of women with some education was better in this regard. The economic and financial status of womenfolk was to some extent determined by the education, since majority of womenfolk were illiterate they were deprived of this share.

Looking at the political consciousness among womenfolk and the level of their participation in political activities, it is found that only 7.06 per cent respondents reported having affiliation to political parties. The low level of such women affiliation to political parties in the rural areas of the hill region is a cumulative result of over burden of daily work, low level of education, lack of awareness, and lack of independent statue in the family. Not only do the women suffer from lack of independence in the family, but cases of interference in their political

activities are also found. The study noted that the level of political awareness was also very low as about 21.47 per cent respondents were aware about the political parties and local candidates contesting elections. About 57.32 per cent respondents apply their own judgement in casting votes. Due to lack of time and independence, majority of respondents did not agree to take membership of Gram Sabhas. The provision of 30 per cent seats reservation for women under new Panchayati Raj Act was known to only 12.94 per cent respondents. Similarly the awareness about the local representatives in different elected bodies and the grass root workers from government departments was found very low among the respondents. The rural women in this region suffer from lack of awareness and lack of independent status which is the result of illiteracy, ignorance, dearth of motivation and high incidence of work burden. The study found that the education has a positive impact on women as far as independent status and awareness is concerned which is evident by the fact that the educated respondents had better level of status and awareness.

It was noted that the level of political participation and awareness was also a low key affair and in this context it is easy to understand that they can not play a positive role in the devolution arrangement unless they are aware and active on these fronts. Again it was proved that education could deliver the necessary input and help in simplifying the task. In this regard, the local people could be mobilized and

channelized in creating awareness generation programme which could help in women empowerment.

The study also found poor progress of ongoing developmental programmes and schemes for women as they have still to penetrate in these areas despite a lot of paper work done in this connection. Womenfolk were found to be marginalised in such programmes aimed at their empowerment. Very few women centred programmes such as Mahila Mandal Dal, the Aanganwadi and Balwadi programmes were being run by Voluntary Organizations. Only a handful of gainers from these schemes could be cited. Other than these, the women were found unaware about other development programmes for their upliftment. The Mahila Samarddhi Yojana, which is ment for womenfolk in rural areas, was not heard by the womenfolk in these areas.

The success of extension programme of government extended by different departments, such as, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, medical and health, women and child development, adult education, and sanitation largely depends on the visits and interactions made by implementing personnel with the grass root people particularly women. The awareness responses from the respondents do not present an encouraging picture as far as the extension programmes are concerned. The study found that genuine efforts have not been made by the extension workers to implement the development scheme in different sectors of economy. It is evident from the fact that very few women have been contacted

by the extension workers of government departments. Thus efforts need to be accelerated to improve the communication gap and a major thrust should be made to implement such schemes as they can generate additional income.

The womenfolk of hill region are hard working and their average daily work routine covers a span of 16.49 hours in a day. The incidence and impact of work burden is high, and even the average status and condition of most of the womenfolk is not what ought to be. About the sharing of day to day work between male members and female members, majority of the respondents were of the opinion that male members should not share the domestic day to day work as it is the job of females. The reason for their argument was that male members are superior in status as they are bread earners and decision makers. Therefore, they should be relieved from doing domestic work. The opinion expressed by the respondents indicates their backwardness in terms of their outlook and perception as they are and still wedded to the traditional socio-cultural environment which offer little scope for their personality development. The womenfolk are prepared to accept a secondary status. However, majority of the respondents were of the view that as regards to work competence they are not less than their male counterparts.

The opinion of 46.47 per cent respondents revealed that they were not given adequate opportunities in education, employment and other economic activities which resulted in

their low status within the family and secondary role and status in the society. Lack of economic freedom and independent status to women is also one of the reasons for unequal opportunities in education and employment. It was general view of the respondents that illiteracy and ignorance are the root causes of discrimination against them. About half of the respondents reported that they are discriminated in every walk of life. The three basic reasons, i.e., lack of education among women, lack of independent economic status and physical weak character of females were advocated by the respondents for being discriminated. Contrary to that, the study found that some of the respondents made discrimination between male and female child in their own household. The reason for such attitude was economic rather social and cultural.

Regarding the general status and condition of womenfolk in comparison to menfolk, about 92 per cent of the respondents were of the view that the status and condition of females in the society is low. The view of the respondents is itself a testimony of the inferior status and poor condition of rural womenfolk in the hill region. The high incidence of drudgery and relative inaccessibility to facilities of education and income is related to the issue of status and condition of womenfolk.

On an average a rural hill woman devotes 3-4 hours daily in the agricultural fields. This is considerably a high amount of time considering the fact that she has to devote

another 5 to 6 hours in getting energy infrastructure, viz., fuel, fodder and water which are also vital requirements for running the basic needs of the family and the livestock. Further hill agriculture is characterised by low rates of output return and high amount of labour time, the burden of which is mainly borne by the women. Her participation is universal and extends to all sundry activities associated with agriculture and livestock. The physical cost that she bears is high in comparison to the returns from agriculture and livestock.

To this can be added the unhospitable terrain and land holdings which are characterised by high incidence of fragmentation, scattered nature which adds both a time and distance dimension to the agrarian problem, uneconomic size, lacking moisture and rich soil nutrients and subject to frequent erosion due to excess rain or over grazing by cattle. Lack of capital formation and investment in agriculture has led to unstableness in family income and agricultural output. Further neither the Public Distribution System (PDS) nor the market mechanism have made a satisfactory penetration in rural areas of hill region. The lack of purchasing power and gender discrimination add to poor women consumption of these goods.

The work load of womenfolk in the agriculture could be reduced to a great extent by changing the cropping pattern and crop diversification, returning to cash crops and other

value added items through horticulture, floriculture, sericulture, mushroom growing, tea gardening, agro-processing and other such industries which have high income and employment potential. The merit of turning to such non-foodgrain item lies in the suitable nature of topography for pursuing such activities in this region.

Therefore, an essential pre-requisite for meeting such an agricultural transformation is the development of a suitable infrastructural base in terms of an efficient transport network wherever feasible, better inputs being made available to people and so on. The entrepreneurial role of women needs to be overhauled and developed which will automatically result in the improvement of indoor and outdoor status of womenfolk.

Women's personality and role is shaped by both endogeneous and exogeneous factors and the exogeneous factor as noted in the context of development programmes being pursued and visits of extension officers and their personal contacts with women as highlighted earlier was rather unsatisfactory and disappointing. Government policy can touch the agrarian issue at only the exogeneous level and role change can come better through education and vocational training to women. This calls for involvement of both agricultural and livestock researchers and new technologies developed to be transferred to these areas. Thus, the 'lab to land' problem also needs to be diagnosed and needs reorientation. Moreover, agricultural packages mainly assume

male as decision maker in production, marketing and distribution and have completely bypassed the women. The exogeneous component has to be properly addressed if decision making and bargaining power of womenfolk have to be improved. This can be achieved only when the womenfolk are addressed properly through an integrated agriculture policy package which has a high value added content through proper involvement of interested researchers, local public, NGOs and Voluntary Agencies along with governmental efforts.

The immaturity and imbalance in occupational structure could also be arrested to a great extent through such a policy package and that too with the additional merit of integrating womenfolk in such development oriented programmes. The livestock scenario at present is characterised by a high number of cattle with low yields. The large size of livestock heads implies high fodder requirements and the latter adds to the daily working hours of womenfolk. The size of cattle has an ecological dimension as high incidence of over-grazing and soil erosion are associated with it. The quality of cattle needs to be improved and its size kept optimal which requires better technical support from the veterinary specialists. The overall policy intervention in animal husbandry sector could prove a source of additional income generation and further utilize the latent potential of womenfolk in this field in terms of less drudgery and more returns per animal. New

varieties of fodder crops suited to this region also needed urgent attention.

Even the developmental programmes and extension services rendered so far have not met either the requirements of the region or the womenfolk. The quality and growth issues of such development programmes need to be attended satisfactorily in 'transforming traditional agriculture' to borrow the title from the well reputed book of T. Shultz. While designing agricultural policies, gender discrimination and inequality of resources among womenfolk must also enter into consideration of policy planners. Thus, within an integrated policy package with the broad objectives of growth and equity and bringing womenfolk into the mainstream can the process of allocation, distribution of resources and stabilization of income and employment be undertaken for a backward agrarian hill economy characterised by low output and high incidence of drudgery associated with the womenfolk. As far as deliverance of such inputs and software information is considered, efforts should be made to involve more and more voluntary organisations and local participation involving women groups should be carried by government agencies.

Some value added process in agro-based industries, packaging and processing could easily be developed at the grass roots level by imparting adequate vocational and technical skills to womenfolk. The involvement of womenfolk

in such agro-based units would serve the duel purpose of improving their productivity and skills and also generating spirit of entrepreneurship among them which is sadly lacking at present. The value added scope in dairing on a cooperative basis is tremendous which need to be developed and tapped properly.

The productivity linked incentives, adequate marketing and distributional network, women societies running such schemes can further strengthen the forward and backward linkages, i.e., between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and could contribute to the integration of women and economy of the region into main stream. The slack season can be utilized for promoting the cause of women through packaging and processing, agro-processing and pursuit of other non-agricultural vocations associated with tapping the resource of the region but not exploiting and plundering the ecology of the region.

Economic independence would help in accelerating the pace and result in improving the status of rural women. To enable them economic independent the women should be given vocational training in various fields, like, tailoring, kitchen gardening, vegetable growing, fruit preservation, embroidery, knitting, weaving, painting, etc. Vocational training should be imparted to women keeping in view their traditions, occupations, leisure time and level of literacy. It is also suggested that vocational training avenues may be decided according to different physiographic setting of the

region and liking of rural women. The major emphasis should be given on vocational training related to secondary sector rather than primary sector. The existing Mahila Mandal and other women organizations need to be promoted and strengthened for better participation of low income groups in economic activities. The women's organisations might be encouraged to take up economic programmes for providing self employment in rural areas.

The occupational structure in the rural areas of the hill region indicates imbalances between the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. The primary sector is characterised by high level of dependence in both income and employment terms of masses and is the source of agricultural drudgery for a majority of womenfolk. The secondary sector has remained largely untouched and even the limited amount of agro-based and small scale and cottage industries development that has taken place have not yielded the desired income and employment returns to majority of people both male and female. The tertiary sector shows large incidence of migration from rural areas, monopolisation of income, educational and employment opportunities by menfolk and marginalisation of womenfolk even in social welfare services relating to health, education and entertainment.

The natural endowment of the region and the various skills of womenfolk could be put synchronised better by providing adequate infrastructural base and strong network of

market mechanism. The development programmes and extension services of government should be designed keeping the basic requirement into consideration and the potential source for such small scale and cottage based rural industrialisation should be identified.

The scope and advantages of women's education are tremendous. A small investment in education can lead to a high multiplier effect as it can widen the horizon of the womenfolk and alleviate them from their current inferior social status and ignorance. It further enhances their decision making power and level of awareness and makes them more receptive to technological changes which can reduce the drudgery further. Thus the invisible drudgery as present in the form of low awareness, lack of skill, low status in family and small role in outwards affairs can be rectified to a great extent. Even active political and social participation and awareness of womenfolk demand substantial doses of education. Two remedies can be suggested to narrow down the educational gap among women : (i) the womenfolk in the age group 18-50 years needs to covered better through the adult literacy programmes and the necessary literacy and vocational training package to be developed for them through active NGOs and concerned government departments; (ii) at the school level scope and coverage of primary and secondary education need to be broadened both qualitatively and quantitatively. Lack of health education and nutritional

awareness is also an indicator of invisible drudgery associated with womenfolk. This gap can be removed jointly by government agencies and NGOs by spreading awareness in the rural areas.

The analysis of working pattern of womenfolk and problems of outward drudgery associated with it and the status and role of hill women in the context of her overall awareness, outlook and perception has captured the crux of the entire problem related to womenfolk in two forms, viz. 'visible drudgery' and 'invisible drudgery' which have been already highlighted in great details in earlier Chapters. The suggestions and recommendations that have been advanced in these concluding pages are based on the responses of the respondents which have been analysed and refined from their original crude version. They are in the light of overall policy objectives which have promoted us to undertake this study.

By 'visible drudgery' we imply the drudgery associated with outward and inward assignments of womenfolk which cause both physical stress and health problems. This is the result of working daily in agricultural and livestock related activities and arranging the energy and infrastructural requirements of the households. While 'visible drudgery' has been highlighted by many researchers and scholars from this region and outside, few have focussed their concern on the 'invisible drudgery'.

The 'invisible drudgery' is associated with the low status and awareness of womenfolk due to poor provision of social consumption goods made available to them. This inegalitarian bias is wedded in the traditional socio-cultural norms and ethics practiced by the community. The overall result has been poor development of women's outlook, awareness and perception. This matter also needs to be urgently addressed for part of drudgery could be attributed to these factors alone.

In this connection the role of women's education through launching of adult literacy programmes, and education of girl child are emphasized. The public and government mobilization efforts should give an integrated and compact package to womenfolk in this regard. Some skill based and vocational training is also highly desirable as it will raise overall income and employment avenues for rural womenfolk. Further the problem of health care and family welfare through such informal education based programmes, knowledge about nutrition and balanced diet and such socially productive knowledge imparted to womenfolk can go a long way in helping her to reduce her overall drudgery, i.e., the 'invisible drudgery'.

The 'visible drudgery' absorbed more than 10 hours out of a daily routine working schedule of 16.49 hours. It itself explains the extent of imblance in the work-leisure ratio. The study is of the opinion that this unfavourable

work ratio acts as a serious hinderance to the development of women's personality and degrades her domestic and outdoor status. The issue of tackling this drudgery has two dimensions which needs serious thought. These are related to improvement in primary sector structure activities and thereby reducing the high incidence of work in the fields and the time and distance problem of procuring the required infrastructure necessary for running the kitchen and the household. This calls for an all round improvement in the agricultural and livestock related activities. Presently both of them continue to be highly uneconomical in terms of output, yield and high association of women/folk in terms of time devoted to this pursuit.

The next issue which demands attention and serious thought from the government's angle is the problem related to fuel, fodder and water collection. Ironically this has been a neglected affair despite repeated attention being drawn towards approaching this problem by environmentalists and the public of the region. The energy problem can be solved to a great extent by establishing micro-hydel projects which can cover a large number of villages and such energy can easily be tapped from sharp falling rivers and gorges which have continuous flow of running water. The development of other sources of non-conventional energy should be encouraged. The improved cook stoves (improved chulhas) can be introduced in the villages which will not only reduce the fuelwood requirement but will also reduce the cooking time. The

installation of bio-gas plants needs to be encouraged where they are feasible and viable. The most pressing problem of the hill region is the fuel problem. It has since times immemorial been gathered by the hill women. But the large scale commercial exploitation of forests have only added to the plight of the rural women as evident by the time and distance for procuring the same. The forest cover is being gradually eroded due to large scale commercial exploitation of hill forests which though contributes in terms of SDP of state but deprives people from this valuable energy asset. The afforestation schemes can include replantation of forest, plantation of quick growing and high energy content species through social forestry in nearby villages. Further, at places where cooking gas or kerosene can be conveniently transported through better roads, such facilities should be made available to the public.

Another important household problem is the procurement of water from distant places by the womenfolk. To this date no satisfactory solution has emerged though some progress is evident in some areas. Thus, water from water falls, rivers, excess rain water can be stored by adopting appropriate technologies and delivery of the same can some extent solve the drinking water problem.

Finally, to sum up it may be pointed out that the state government could introduce a novel scheme through which the hill women may be provided an ideal opportunity to enhance their social status, their overall personality, improve their

awareness and outlook towards life, exhibit their talent, and, improve their financial condition.

It may be recalled that the Central government holds a number of annual fairs through which the work of artisans is promoted effectively. The Surajkund Mela immediately comes to mind where craftsmen display their work and also put them up for sale. Besides this, the Mela is also an attraction for the tourists because of the cultural functions which are organised.

The State Government too can think in terms of initiating a similar Mela exclusively for the womenfolk of the hill region. The women can display their skills in this fair in relation to activities such as tailoring, embroidery, weaving, knitting, wood crafts and traditional paintings. These products can be on sale along with the other products produced by the women of the hill region at the household and cottage levels.

During the course of the fair cultural programmes can be organised and these will also include items presented by the talented women from the hill region. Inter-district competitions can be organised and prizes for best crafts-women initiated with the objective of bringing out the best from these women artisans.

At the district level the work can be encouraged and coordinated with the help of the NGOs active in a given area.

They can organise the women and set up their stalls at the fair and also help them in the presentation of the cultural programmes. The organisation of the Mela itself can then be the responsibility of say the social welfare department of state government.

It would be better to keep shifting the venue of the fair from one city to another so such that people all over the state become aware of the talents of the hill women. Moreover, even the hill women will get the opportunity to visit different places in the state, come in contact with different people and thereby improve their level of awareness. In this way the 'Hill Women's Mela' will have an all round impact on the personalities of the women and the fair will be a welcome change from their routine life which is so monotonus and full of drudgery. Thus with the help of forward and backward linkages through the women participants in these Melas, the awareness among other women in the region will be increased.